

IN BERLIN

Berliners are okay, said the President

Here for half the length of time John F. Kennedy spent in the divided city just six years ago Richard Nixon missed out on the sun and confetti on what was a cold, cloudy winter's day. Plodding through icy puddles President Nixon already, on his thirty-ninth day in office, chose to adopt the recommendation made by John F. Kennedy in front of Schöneberg town hall to all who want to make an elementary study of the East-West problem: "Come to Berlin!"

President Nixon did not stand on ceremony and experienced Berlin with a great deal of charm and frequent disregard for his security screen. Like John F. Kennedy he will probably have left the city with even more vivid impressions than he was expecting anyway.

The warmth of the reception prompted Kennedy to make the much-quoted personal commitment to Berlin to which President Nixon expressly referred in his speech to the Siemens workers. It was equally characteristic of Richard Nixon that he had the sense of humour and presence of mind to turn round the cry of "Ha, ho, ho, Nixon is OK!", based on a local football chant, with which the people of Berlin welcomed him and reply to the Siemens workers "Ha, ho he, Berliners are OK!"

This tag will go the rounds in the States too, since reactions in Berlin are viewed with some importance as a yardstick of the popularity of American politicians. A Federal Republic TV commentator in America, for instance, commented that Mr. Nixon had at no point of his election campaign brought out as many people in support as in wintry Berlin.

Right at Tempelhof airport it was clear that the President was keen on shaking hands than reviewing military ceremonial. Christiane Schütz, the little daughter of governing Mayor Klaus Schütz, pulled her brother Sebastian to one side just in time to make a gangway for the leader of the free world.

Foreign Minister and ex-Governing Mayor Willy Brandt increasingly enjoyed the Berlin scene, particularly when, at Heinrich-Hofe-Strasse, the cries of "We want Nixon" were interspersed with shouts of "Willy".

By the time the tour reached the checkpoint it was also clear that the President was more interested in the people of Berlin than in the strict timetable drafted by the protocol men. He continually reached

out for bunches of flowers and even gave autographs.

His knack of getting on with people was instinctively demonstrated in detail when he gave his left hand to Mayor Schütz, who is a leftlander because of a war wound, when he rang up and later apologised in person to the assembled workers at the Siemens factory for being late and also when he unceremoniously put his arms on the shoulders of the Allied commandants and other officials.

Mr. Nixon does not radiate an intellectuality of the kind by which John F. Kennedy kept the audience at the Free University spellbound by his personality.

Richard Nixon makes an impact on all and sundry by virtue of a conscious simplicity and easy directness.

When has any head of state ever clambered on to the open boot of the official limousine to show himself to the people? This country's leading politicians were forced to follow suit and engage in unusual physical activity but the picture of the three men, Nixon, Kiesinger and Brandt, at the corner of Kurfürstendamm, Berlin, will be a world bestseller.

Only at Siemens did President Nixon use a typescript. Otherwise he spoke off the cuff, which is good for any politician's image. His message from the heart of America and emphasis on everyday bra-

very as opposed to matter-of-course self-preservation at times of crisis bore witness to good advice or a quick grasp in view of the Berliner's reluctance to see themselves as heroes.

A placard in English against the background of pipes read "Peaceful work is guaranteed by men with your determination. We thank you, President Nixon." It was a fitting addition to the more humorous comments. Yet the youth branch of the Christian Democratic Union did not deign to modify a popular song of some years ago — "Open the Wall, Richard".

When the door of Air Force One with the Presidential insignia on the side closed at Tegel airport Berlin had four hours to look back on what should prove of political benefit in the years to come. The people of Rome will not have begrudged Berlin the extra half hour. Only the militant extra-parliamentary opposition had a bad day.

(DER TAGESSPIEGEL, 28 February 1969)

The father of all airline stewardesses.



If Arthur Hofe is the father of 22,600 airline stewardesses, he must have set some kind of a world record. He did.

He was the first person — man or woman — to serve passengers on an airplane. The date was May 22, 1928. The airline was Lufthansa. And you know the result.

Now you don't have to bring your own food when you fly on any airline. Someone prepares it for you. You don't have to curl up in your overcoat when you take a nap. Someone brings you a blanket. You don't have to guess what the time and temperature will be at the city you're flying to. Someone tells you.

And you don't have to fly without hearing those four famous words: "Coffee, tea or milk?"

Today, 40 years after Arthur Hofe inaugurated air passenger service by pouring glasses of brandy all around, you have trained men and women to serve you on any of the 103 airlines you choose to fly.

And just because Lufthansa was the first airline in the world to serve air travellers doesn't necessarily mean we serve you the best now.

It doesn't mean we don't, either.

You be the judge.

Lufthansa
The German Airline

The German Tribune

Hamburg, 10 March 1969

Eighth Year - No. 362 - By Air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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The Berlin 'non-crisis' in retrospect

Frankfurter Allgemeine
ZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

It's well that ends well is too easy a reaction to what turned out to be a subdued Soviet protests against the allegedly provocative election of the Federal President in Berlin.

The past few weeks have, when all is said and done, been such a grave test of the firmness of the Western position that it must be asked how the test has been withstood and what conclusions must be drawn for the next time.

For there can be no doubt that the Soviet Union will repeat the test in the foreseeable future. From time to time it wants to know the answer.

More clearly than a month ago it is now generally recognised that the acid East-West debate about the so-called Federal presence in Berlin was basically an attack on West Berlin's founding part of the economic, social and judicial system of the West and the Federal Republic.

The attack on the convening of the Federal Assembly, the electoral college that elects the head of state, in West Berlin was an attempt to erode the material substance of the city's relationship with the

demonstration of this presence would be a step towards worsening of the status quo in Berlin has been significantly amended.

Demonstrative displays of Federal presence are now felt only to be necessary as long as the Soviet Union stands by its declared intention of worsening the situation.

On the other hand it has become equally evident that (and this is the most important positive outcome of the weeks of tension) only the declared communist intention of cutting Berlin off from the West makes it necessary to maintain Federal presence in its present form and occasionally around it the required emphasis.

Where the Soviet Union to have second thoughts much would be easier and there would no longer be any compelling need to emphasise outward signs of West Berlin's founding part of the economic and social system of the West.

Now that the test has been stood there is greater leeway for sensible deliberation. The meeting between Chancellor Kiesinger and Soviet ambassador Sazonov Faragapkin, of which, said to say, in the end nothing came, proved nonetheless that objective discussion on the Berlin situation is even possible between the Soviet and Federal governments.

There are no reasons why the experiment should not be repeated, some other why it should not be extended to the Ulbricht regime, which in the long run would definitely derive scant benefit from the impression arising that tactical talks between Bonn and Moscow are easier to get under way than talks between Bonn and East Berlin. The rest of the world would then see only too clearly where the blame rests.

The prospects of another experiment of this kind being made in the long run are also brighter because the other side now knows better what the score is over West Berlin. The Western Allies, who are responsible for the city, particularly the new American administration have proved that they have no intention of allowing themselves to be edged out of Berlin, not even by means of indirect pressure on the Federal government in respect of its presence there.

The US President appears even to have enjoyed in a way this first opportunity of demonstrating his firmness. This country obviously did not enjoy itself to quite the same extent.

The Allies have also given this country virtually carte blanche to negotiate with the aim of bringing about substantial improvements in the position of the people of Berlin and to discuss communist wishes in the process. At the first sign of readiness to negotiate on the part of the other side talks can go ahead.

Soviet cheers for Heinemann's election

Soviet journalists rang up Federal Republic correspondents the day after the Presidential elections and congratulated them on the election of Gustav Heinemann. It is years since anything of the kind last occurred in Moscow.

Radio Moscow noted that Dr Heinemann's election had made a good impression on European public opinion. The main factors recalled were the part Gustav Heinemann played in the first Adenauer Cabinet and his opposition while Minister of Justice to the statute of limitations on Nazi crimes.

President-elect Heinemann can be sure of the respect of the Soviet leadership. Now that he has been elected Moscow no doubt finds it easier to tone down the unpleasant recent Berlin crisis.



New President

Dr Gustav Heinemann was elected president of the Federal Republic in succession to Dr Heinrich Lübke on 5 March at the 'Ostpreussen Halle' in Berlin. Dr Heinemann was the Social Democrats' candidate, defeating Dr Gerhard Schröder, the Christian Democratic Union candidate. 512 votes were cast for Dr Heinemann, 506 for Dr Schröder and five abstentions. Dr Heinemann is the first Social Democrat President of the Federal Republic in the post-war era. Foreign Minister Willy Brandt (left), chairman of the SPD, was with Dr Heinemann when the election results were announced.

(Photo: dpa)

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It must be hoped that the other side will speak with one voice and that this voice is the voice of reason.

Ernst-Otto Mautzke

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 8 March 1969)

In the West, then, the Berlin crisis has visibly strengthened agreement among all concerned. In the East the outcome is likely to make necessary many a confidential debate.

There is no reason, particularly as far as this country is concerned, to hope that the manifest wavering between Moscow and East Berlin (or conceivably in Moscow itself) will last all too long.

It must be hoped that the other side will speak with one voice and that this voice is the voice of reason.

Ernst-Otto Mautzke

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 8 March 1969)

East and West, *Izvestia*, the government paper, noted in bold type.

Moscow is avoiding anything that might jeopardise the prospective exchange of views with Washington. Brezhnev and Kosygin accordingly permitted appropriate resistance in Berlin but did not allow any inroads into Allied rights.

As expected only the Germans have suffered as a result of the election the Soviet Union terms a provocation. The damage will come when, little by little, the GDR customs officers turn the screw on the overland access routes and refuse to allow alleged armaments to leave West Berlin.

Emil Dölle

(Hamburgische Presse, 5 March 1969)

High hopes of Richard Nixon's presidency

Most people in the Federal Republic and West Berlin are hopeful of the prospects of President Nixon's term of office. According to a poll conducted by Infas of Bonn 58 per cent of those questioned took a bright view of Nixon's Presidency while only fifteen per cent were less hopeful.

Two people out of three reckoned that the change-over at the White House will have no repercussions on relations between Bonn and Washington. Sixteen per cent even felt that improvements were likely. Only two per cent expected a change for the worse.

The overwhelming majority of those questioned took a positive view of relations between the two countries but eighty per cent rated relations as good while only seven per cent assessed them as very good.

(Hamburgische Presse, 28 February 1969)

11.3.69

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Moscow's United Nations aggression resolution astounds the world

Frankfurter Rundschau
Unabhängige Tageszeitung

Moscow's latest move is enough to make one rub one's eyes in amazement and feel that it must surely be a tragical mistake. Yet given the virtually boundless imagination of Soviet politicians it appears less surprising after all.

Almost six months to the day after the move to the United Nations, the Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact troops led by the Soviet Union in the Kremlin has submitted a resolution on aggression to the United Nations.

The terms of the resolution as it stands are sound enough and the world would be a better place if the resolution were to become part and parcel of international political practice.

The Soviet proposals provide for an invasion or an attack on the territory of one state by the armed forces of another to be declared armed aggression and a crime against peace.

The export of armed units, mercenaries, terrorists or underground fighters and subversive activity of any kind that has as its aim violent revolution or a change in policy towards a line more in accordance with the interests of the aggressor is to be denounced as indirect aggression.

Coming from the Soviet Union these definitions are not without a certain piquancy. With the exception of Yugoslavia none of the Comcon regimes was set up under its own steam or even in the wake of free elections.

Even if this specifically post-war development is disregarded there can still be

Silly Soviet taunts of arms manufacture

Soviet accusations, regurgitated by the Soviet Zone, that armaments are manufactured in West Berlin are a threadbare pretext for the chicanery of checks on goods transported overland to and from the divided city.

These accusations have, of course, been denied but it would be more convincing to put the boot on the other foot, which Bonn and West Berlin are well able to do.

Secretary of State Wetzel of the All-German Affairs Ministry has indeed already provided detailed information about arms production in East Berlin, the half of the city that has illegally been incorporated into the German Democratic Republic and unlike West Berlin is not considered by Walter Ulbricht to be an independent political unit.

Who in reality, it may well be asked, is breaking the old Allied regulations? Armaments ranging from hand grenades to torpedoes for the People's Navy, all manufactured in East Berlin, not only bear out the military nature of the Eastern sector, they also go well with the martial legislation and the People's Army parades.

The Western commandants have often and in vain protested against the holding of military parades in East Berlin. Disclosure of details about East Berlin's arms industry are not likely to bring about any immediate change either. But they should still be publicised in order to make the true nature of the Eastern accusations evident.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 6 March 1969)

no denying that in the case of Hungary the legal government, that of Imre Nagy, did not appeal for Soviet tanks. And as for Czechoslovakia the Soviet Union has still to prove that legal Party or government authorities issued an invitation to the armed tourists of 21 August 1968.

Still, the Soviet move in the UN is not as nonsensical as might seem to be the case. It must be seen from the Kremlin's viewpoint and assessed in accordance with the dialectics of Soviet activity. Since Marxist-Leninists of the Soviet variety are, in their own opinion, incapable of committing acts of aggression the so-called socialist countries they rule can never be guilty of committing a crime against peace.

On every occasion that troops controlled by a Communist Party have without prior provocation invaded another country they have allegedly done so either in response to some provocation or other or in order to render selfless assistance.

The Russian bear and the Chinese dragon make rude noises to each other

In a blazing leader the Peking People's Daily claims that the skirmish between Soviet and Chinese frontier guards over an island in the Ussuri, a river not far from the East Siberian railway, was an attempt by the Russian imperialists to spark off war.

The Moscow press more calmly maintains that the Chinese crossed over onto Soviet territory and that this was only one of several thousand incidents in recent years.

So far only the Bulgarian party daily has asserted that Mao intended to provoke the Soviet Union militarily and so relieve the pressure on West German revanchists and their American allies over Berlin.

The common frontier between China and the Soviet Union is roughly 5,000 miles long and has recently been strengthened by both sides in a variety of ways ranging from strategic settlements to missile launching pads.

Neither prove warlike intent. Both Russia and China have to consolidate their rule over the local population. Until recently the population of the Soviet Far East consisted mainly of Tungus and other non-Chinese Mongols, while Soviet Central Asia and the neighbouring Chinese province of Sinkiang were peopled largely by Turkmen and East Persian Tadzhik tribes.

First frontier incidents

The first major frontier incidents were the result of steppe tribes seeking refuge from their alien overlords in the neighbouring country. On the present occasion Soviet and Chinese soldiers clashed without a previous occurrence of this kind.

Do either Russia or China have war aims in Asia? Not on the face of it. Comments last made by Mao Tse-tung about five years ago with regard to unjust treaties that the Tsars once imposed on large areas of Asia were but a Chinese rejoinder to Soviet jibes about Chinese passivity towards the possessions of Western imperialists.

There are neither socio-economic nor historical reasons for assuming that China needs the cold steppes of Soviet Asia to

This, at any rate, is the Soviet interpretation of the Russo-Soviet winter war of 1940 and the occupation of the Baltic states and eastern Poland undertaken after consultation with Hitler. The explanations given for intervention in Hungary and Czechoslovakia were much the same.

As, of course, the Soviet leaders have not the slightest intention of making themselves and their state liable to denunciation as aggressors according to the definition they themselves have made it must be assumed that the Soviet resolution is levelled only at countries whose activities do not coincide with the interests of Soviet policies.

The Americans, it can only be assumed, are to be considered guilty of aggression despite the fact that US forces are in Vietnam at the invitation of the Saigon government whereas the North Vietnamese, who came unrequested, are not. The Israelis by the same token will be guilty of aggression but not the Arab terrorists operating on Israeli territory. The list could be continued indefinitely.

Striving towards a major goal

Where moves of this kind successful the Kremlin would have achieved a major goal. It would have a firmer hold both before the UN and in propaganda on countries it describes as imperialists or enemies of its intentions by its own actions.

In the case in point the Soviet Union would have to prove by means of a reappraisal of its policies towards Prague, for instance, that it is not merely practising Orwellian doublethink and that unasked-for intervention is not assistance on the one hand and aggression on the other but without exception a crime against peace.

Were the Soviet Union to provide this proof it would indeed have done a good deal towards improving the code of international conduct.

Martin Schulze
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 March 1969)Süddeutsche Zeitung
NACHRICHTEN

when the ambassadors of the two countries in Warsaw, scheduled to resume in February, have again been cancelled.

If anyone in Europe is likely to benefit from the clash between Moscow and Peking it is the smaller Eastern Bloc countries. In his latest speech Rumianka's head of state combined the demand for national self-determination with a declaration of solidarity with all foreign Communists, including the Chinese. And Peking's propaganda accuses Moscow of pursuing imperialist policies not only against China but also against Czechoslovakia.

Immanuel Brinbaum
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 5 March 1969)

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HOME AFFAIRS

Gustav Heinemann - the new Federal Republic president

Dr. Gustav Heinemann is not a man given to expansive gestures. Whereas others make their presence felt with much ado, he is modest, almost inconspicuous. Rhetorical pomp is not his style. On the contrary his diction, which every now and then includes an Old French turn of phrase, is straightforward but strangely penetrating.

He is a man who certainly does not make much of himself, a Christian and a valiant politician. Gustav Heinemann is the new Federal President and he is the first Social Democrat to occupy this office since Friedrich Ebert.

If one wanted to chronicle Heinemann's career, one would really have to write three biographies: that of the private person, the politician and the churchman.



Gustav Heinemann

(Photo: dpa)

Fifth presidential election

The recent meeting of the Federal Assembly in West Berlin was the fifth time since the establishment of the Federal Republic that this body had convened.

The first time the Federal Assembly met was on 12 September 1949 in Bonn. In the election for Federal President, Professor Theodor Heuss, the Free Democratic Party (FDP) candidate, won a narrow majority on the second count; he was given 416 of a possible 804 votes.

On 17 July 1954 in West Berlin, Theodor Heuss was re-elected having gained 671 of 987 votes. On 1 July 1959 Heinrich Lübke, Christian Democratic Union (CDU), was elected as Heuss' successor in West Berlin. On the second count, Lübke obtained 520 of a possible 1,039 votes.

Lübke gained 710 out of 1042 votes when he was re-elected for a second term on 1 July 1964. This election was also held in West Berlin. Since the 1959 election West Berlin votes have been counted along with the other votes.

On 5 March 1969 Heinrich Lübke's successor was elected in West Berlin. Dr. Gustav Heinemann, Social Democratic Party (SPD), received 512 of 1,023 votes in the third ballot.

Gustav Heinemann was born on 23 July 1899 in Schwelm in the Ruhr, the son of a Krupp health insurance director. He studied at five universities and graduated as a doctor of political science in Marburg in 1921.

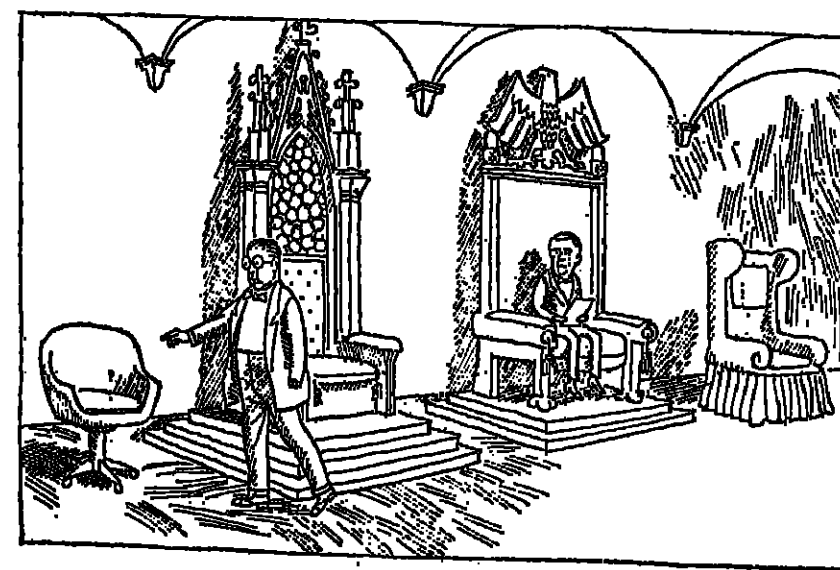
Eight years later he graduated in law at Münster University, and from 1928 to 1949 he worked for Rheinische Stahlwerke in Essen, first as a legal adviser and then as a mining director. In addition, he taught at Cologne University from 1933 to 1939. During the 1930s Heinemann worked as a lawyer in Essen, where he had opened his legal practice in 1926.

Heinemann's political career, which began during the Weimar Republic, is characterised by one outstanding quality: he stands by his convictions and when making decisions does not indulge in opportunism but follows his conscience, irrespective of whether this may cause personal disadvantages.

From 1933 onwards Heinemann, together with Ernst Lemmer, was active in the Democratic Student Movement. After the Second World War he became Mayor of Essen in 1946 and a year later was appointed North Rhine-Westphalian Minister of Justice in Karl Arnold's Cabinet.

In 1949 Chancellor Konrad Adenauer made Heinemann a member of his first Cabinet, but only a year later came the breach: in protest against the initiation of the rearmament policy, Heinemann resigned from the government — not a very frequent occurrence in Federal Republic politics. And two years later he broke with the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), which he had helped to found in the British occupation zone after the war.

Then Heinemann founded the All-German People's Party (GV) which did not attract much support and was disbanded in 1957 with the recommendation that members should join the Social Democra-



The hair apparent - I'll take that one!

(Cartoon: E. M. Lang / Süddeutsche Zeitung)

tic Party (SPD). Heinemann did join the SPD and shortly afterwards was elected to the Bundestag.

During the Third Reich, Heinemann who was an active Protestant joined the Confessional Church (the anti-Nazi movement within the Protestant Church). Straight after the war he became a member of the Council of the Protestant Church in Germany (EKD); three years later he became president of the Church Assembly in Essen, a constitutional body, and in 1949 he became chairman of the EKD All-German synod for a five-year period. In 1967 he was given an honorary doctorate by the Protestant theological faculty of Bonn University.

Gustav Heinemann soon became the SPD's legal expert and so when the Grand Coalition was formed it was only natural that he should be nominated as Minister of Justice.

Being naturally modest Heinemann made no secret of the fact that he only accepted candidature for the post of Federal President "with hesitation" because "oppressively high demands" are made of this highest government office, while the possibilities of fulfilling these expectations are pretty limited by virtue of Basic Law and the nature of the post.

He does not want to be politically active in his own initiative because the head of state cannot be held responsible to anyone. But Heinemann does not want to act as a mere representative. The Federal President should indirectly participate in major decisions by trying to consult and exchange views with government and Bundestag representatives.

The new Federal President's relationship to the state, which he is to represent, is equally clear and rational. He regards the state as a necessity which is essential for human co-existence and rejects any kind of transcendental exaggeration of the role of the state. This attitude excludes any possibility of a sentimental attitude to the state.

In an interview Heinemann once expressed this view in an aphoristic manner: "I do not love the state, I love my wife. The state is a necessity which we cannot avoid."

Popular opinion has it that Heinemann is dry and humourless. This is not true. Heinemann, who looks sixty though he is in fact already 69, is more inclined to grin or laugh quietly than to roar with laughter and has a deep-seated sense of humour.

Holger Götting
(Hannoversche Presse, 6 March 1969)

Authority without power

This is the main contrast with the powers of the President of the Reich during the Weimar Republic, who was allowed extraordinary powers in the event of a crisis, quite apart from the fact that he was commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

It is true that the Federal President represents the country externally, but policy decisions are made by the Chancellor. At the instigation of the Bundestag and with the approval of the Bundesrat, the President is responsible for announcing the need to defend the country, but he cannot exert any influence on the armed forces.

He appoints government officials and appends his signature to the appointment of Federal Ministers. But what would happen if he refused to sign in such cases? As yet this remains an untrodden area of dispute for constitutional lawyers as Basic Law does not envisage such an occurrence.

People often say that constitutional monarchs ruled but did not govern. In the United States the presidency and government leadership are one and the same thing. The American President is his own prime minister.

As far as this country is concerned, one can only say that the Federal President

does not rule nor does he govern. In is merely a representative. Does this diminish the highest office in the Federal Republic? Not at all, but it makes accepting the responsibility this office incredibly difficult and tricky.

The person who occupies this position needs to possess an unusual amount of leadership, a very deep understanding of the dignity and power of a constitutional state and at the same time a high degree of self-discipline and tact.

Twenty years ago when the fathers of Basic Law set to work to give the free part of this country a viable, new political basis, they were anxious — but in an excessively narrow-minded sort of way — to learn the lessons of history.

They were haunted by the dying years of the Weimar democracy of Hindenburg's government. Presidential democracy came to an end when Hitler was appointed Reich Chancellor. This was not to be allowed to happen again.

So they divested future Federal presidents of all genuine powers and constructed a chancellor's democracy, knowing that the government leader would be directly controlled by elected representatives. In the light of these constitutional principles, every new Federal President is faced with the task of imposing his own style on the highest government office.

Theodor Heuss succeeded in doing this. Ten years ago Konrad Adenauer suddenly tried to make a bold turn-about and transfer from the Palais Schaumburg, the Chancellor's official residence, to the Villa Hammerschmidt, the President's residence.

Walter Götting
(DER WELT, 6 March 1969)

President Lübke's last state visit

DUTY DONE WITH SMILES AND HAND WAVES

Ständesche Zeitung
WIRTSCHAFTS- UND POLITIK-ZEITUNG

Heinrich Lübke found the wooden casket presented to him by the Mayor of Bouaké at an official ceremony almost too heavy to carry. Inside, on dark red velvet, gleamed the larger-than-life city key skillfully made by African goldsmiths, like the key to a giant's castle.

This was not the first time that the Federal President during his last state visit as president was surprised by the display of magnificence which accompanied the first visit of a European head of state to the Ivory Coast.

But the eight-inch long key of solid gold was only the beginning. Djiho Soukoko, the Mayor of Bouaké which is the second largest city in the country, was utterly in his element. For more than an hour his distinguished guest and party were driven from the airport along a carefully thought out route which looped backwards and forwards throughout the city.

Under the full glare of the midday sun he stood beside Heinrich Lübke in the shiny black chrome Cadillac which the President of the Ivory Coast had had sent to Bouaké from the capital 250 miles away especially for the occasion.

The car moved slowly through a lane of laughing, clapping Africans, followed by a motorcade, the Federal Republic flag dominated the streets. To show the Germans how much their products are admired in this West African republic, even the local veterinary surgeon had renounced his black Mercedes 250 S for the benefit of the guests.

Then Heinrich Lübke, with rosy cheeks and tired limbs, stood before his host and received a chieftain's insignia: the gold-embroidered, black velvet hat, the long carved chieftain's staff, the huge fly-swatter with a golden handle and many other gifts. In the background, the local chieftains from the Bouaké region watched the white-haired elderly gentleman from the distant Federal Republic with proud cheerfulness as he was received into their midst as an honorary member.

Briefed on the flight to West Africa

During the flight to the Ivory Coast, while the three Luftwaffe orientees served smoked eel, chicken breasts, celestial beef-tea and roast sirloin to the President's party, Heinrich Lübke and his wife Wilhelmine continued to study the mass of documents provided by Bonn officials. In the meantime—according to protocol—greetings telegrams were sent to the heads of state over whose countries the plane flew. General de Gaulle did not reply to these greetings, but Spain's hard-pressed leader General Franco conveyed his thanks even before the aeroplane had reached Gibraltar.

In Abidjan, the Pearl of the Lagoon as the capital of the Ivory Coast is sometimes called, the Federal President was greeted not only by a guard of honour, which he and the smiling 65-year-old President Felix Houphouët-Boigny inspected, but also by another unimpeachable display. In Bonn such splendours are reserved for very special occasions. But in Abidjan the two presidents climbed into a highly-polished Mercedes 600 and ecstatically veiled dancers on three-foot stilts performed around the vehicle.



President Heinrich Lübke of the Federal Republic with Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouët-Boigny

(Photo: dpa)

From the moment when the Luftwaffe's new Boeing 707 with the stylised Iron Cross on the wings touched down at the ultra-modern airport of Abidjan, the capital of the Ivory Coast, Heinrich Lübke and some of his colleagues had increasing difficulty in viewing in the right perspective the splendid display which unrolled before them.

In fact, it all started before this. While the Federal President was still trying to sort out the confusing variety of people and countries he was to visit in his Bonn villa, the Ivory Coast daily published for the four million inhabitants—*Fraternité Matin*—appeared with the banner headline "Welcome to President H. Lübke" and the front page was edged with a black-red-and-gold border, the colours of the Federal Republic. Throughout the week radio and television did not tire of broadcasting German music and German films.

But this visit was also politically significant as could be seen from the expressions of the Frenchmen who mingled with the Africans in the streets of Abidjan and Bouaké. Most of the younger Frenchmen waved at the visitors with unmistakable approval. However, some of the older Frenchmen obviously regarded the arrival of the Federal Republic delegation as an invasion of their oldest sphere of interest.

The Ivory Coast, a country the size of the Federal Republic, was regarded as France's favourite child in Africa long after it gained independence in 1960. Even attempts by Common Market partners to corner a section of this extraordinarily healthy African market were greeted in Paris with acid smiles.

Behind the splendours of this state visit, this is where the major misunderstanding lies. Whilst politicians in Bonn are anxious not to tread on France's toes in the Ivory Coast, and throughout French-speaking Africa, many of the top government officials there regard it as a foregone conclusion that the idea of the visit was to gain a lever against certain authoritarian attitudes of the French in this country.

But the Federal Republic's policy is certainly not as determined as that. Whenever there was talk of cooperation between the Ivory Coast and the Federal Republic, it was always pointed out by this country's representatives that Franco-Federal Republic cooperation on all these issues would be most advantageous.

Businessmen's sorry tales

Many Federal Republic businessmen can tell sorry tales about the Ivory Coast. A joint agricultural project undertaken by a private group from this country and the Ivory Coast government, which was to have commenced a few weeks ago, has got into serious difficulties because by inexplicable means French competitors have imposed an export embargo on Abidjan harbour.

When the Federal Republic concerned wanted to employ Polish shippers, with the support of members of the Ivory Coast government, the Poles were tipped off that if they agreed they could no longer

count on getting the previous timber cargoes. Where money is concerned, there is still a long way to go before cooperative European efforts are undertaken in Africa. The situation is not much better as regards education and training. French advisers in the Ivory Coast are merely suspicious if other countries want to send professors, teachers or specialists there—even if they themselves cannot provide the necessary personnel.

President Houphouët-Boigny is a cautious man. He does not want to rush his fences; he does not want to annoy France

President Heinrich Lübke left the Federal Republic on 5 February on his last official visit as head of state. His trip took him to the Ivory Coast, Niger and Chad where he was warmly received. President Lübke returned to this country on 18 February.

because without a doubt he needs France more than any other country to ensure the development of his nation.

But for this very reason the Federal Republic state visit is important to him, and for this very reason he and his colleagues wish that people from this country would not always hide behind the facade of Franco-Federal Republic cooperation when it comes to planning concrete projects. The French attempt to maintain its monopoly is costing the Ivory Coast a good deal of money.

Throughout this visit the Federal Republic delegation was constantly aware of how much the Ivory Coast would like to engage the Federal Republic as a direct economic partner. As a result of the visit a capital loan of seven million Marks, which had been approved long before, and a delivery loan of 6.5 million Marks was offered to the Ivory Coast government—a friendly gesture of considerable significance.

But the most senior official accompanying the Federal President on this visit, the Minister of Economic Cooperation, was forced to realise how limited the Federal Republic's opportunities of pursuing a planned policy in developing countries are—just when the impression of this country's foreign policy in Africa had been polished up with considerable success thanks to the state visit.

Erhard Eppler, Minister of Economic Cooperation, was in danger of losing his enthusiasm because of the splendid reception, the colourful African dances and the impressive landscape between the tropical rain forests and the grass plains, when he heard the news from Bonn.

Administrative improvements

Even though he himself kept quiet, it was no secret in Abidjan that in Bonn this young Social Democrat and active Protestant had been tripped up. For weeks his attempt to at last tighten up the administrative apparatus responsible for this country's development aid by creating a Federal bureau for development aid had been repeatedly delayed by the Cabinet without objective reasons being given.

Then the Christian Democratic and Christian Social Unions (CDU/CSU) in the Bundestag did something else. Hours before the Minister and the President departed, they rejected a suggestion by his Ministry which was intended to prevent the developing countries from receiving less aid because of the new four-per-cent export tax and also from having to pay more for goods. The Coalition battle does not even leave Africa unaffected.

However, Heinrich Lübke did not let this spoil his enjoyment. Only occasionally when his wife with obvious pleasure constantly took to the dance floor did a disapproving shadow flit across his face.

Otherwise he did what he felt to be his duty with smiles and waves. One of his younger colleagues summed it up like this: "Heinrich Lübke sweated for the Federal Republic."

Werner Holzer
(Ständesche Zeitung, 11 February 1960)

PUBLISHING

Augstein — a man without a biography imprisoned in his creation

He was 23 years old then and the story goes that instead of wearing salvaged officer's trousers into the office, he sometimes wore short trousers.

Now he is 45 and the intervening couple of decades have aged him. But he has remained surprisingly youthful—a boy, which shoots arrows without ever losing its tension.

It was on 4 January 1947 that the first issue of *Der Spiegel* appeared—15,000 copies, 28 pages long, advertisements were unimportant. He was the editor and one of three shareholders who each provided 10,000 Marks capital.

Today *Der Spiegel* has a circulation of one million, its average length is 170 pages and two-thirds of production costs are covered by advertising. The man in question has just bought out his last shareholder; now he is the sole owner of

DIE ZEIT
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the *Spiegel* publishing house which has an estimated market value of 100 million Marks.

Rudolf Augstein, whom some people hail as a Nietzsche and others scorn as a Therapist, is unique in the development of the press in the Federal Republic: a man who wrote and edited a successful magazine, who—necessarily—became a publisher, that is a business man, and yet remained a journalist at the same time. And to cap it all, he was a successful salesman as well.

He bought out his original two partners for relatively small sums quite early on. Gerd Bucerius and Richard Ginner became shareholders after the departure of John Jahr who had for many years looked after the *Spiegel* business.

Ginner was the last shareholder to be bought out after a comparatively long legal battle. The take-over bid is thought to have amounted to thirty or forty million Marks.

One of Augstein's closest associates once said that Rudolf Augstein is a man without a biography. His biography is *Der Spiegel* and it began—as he himself now says—more by chance than anything else.

Augstein was born in 1923 during the political confusion of the November Revolution (though, admittedly, the uprising hardly affected his birthplace, Hannover). He was the sixth of seven children, brought up in a Catholic, middle-class home and went to school in Hannover. The headmaster of the Kaiserin Augusta Viktoria secondary school later commented, "He was the best pupil ever to attend this school."

Even at that time his critical intellect was manifest: at the beginning of the Second World War he had to write an essay on the role of the arch-enemy, Britain. Augstein came to the conclusion that Germany had no chance of ever winning the war against Britain. His essay was returned to him unmarked.

A little later he took his Abitur (school-leaving examinations) and as he could not go on to university without working on a Nazi compulsory labour project, he found a loophole: he worked as a volunteer for the *Hannoverscher Anzeiger*. This is where he learnt the rudiments of his profession.

Then followed military service, a period in the artillery, then as a "forward observer" on the Eastern front; he was wounded and had an adventurous journey back to Hannover. And then came a

significant meeting: a few enterprising Englishmen, connected with the occupation troops, were looking for a number of young German editors to work on a periodical such as had never been published in Germany before: the first issue of *Die Woche*, a news magazine appeared in 1946.

Today Augstein comments, "As far as I was concerned, the two main considerations were a warm office and getting enough calories. Anyway, I did not think the project would last long."

But the young man made a different impression on his colleagues and the patronising Englishmen. Within a few weeks, thanks to his dogged conscientiousness, purposeful—some people say ruthless—energy and superior intellect everyone in the team knew that he was the boss.

However, Augstein was right on one point: this project did not survive very long. After only a few issues *Die Woche* was discontinued because of its outspoken criticism. The Englishmen who no longer wanted to publish the magazine under the auspices of the occupation authorities put forward an alternative: Germans could continue to produce the magazine—under a different name. And so *Der Spiegel* was born and with it began Rudolf Augstein's biography.

Right from the start he was the leading and controlling power behind his magazine. But it was some years before he himself emerged from the anonymity of the "publisher." In the 1950s *Der Spiegel* became an institution in the Federal Republic; it was not so much a genuine, comprehensive news magazine as an exposé magazine.

Der Spiegel's salutes lacked pity, eloquence, and moderation; on the surface articles were full of pathos which only went to hide the delight in subjecting politicians of varying calibre and various persuasions to mordant criticism until they all looked pretty much the same—hulderous and pitiful individuals.

This was one aspect of the magazine. But early on articles by-lined "Jens Daniel" began to appear. These were, in fact, written by Rudolf Augstein whose attacks were certainly biting but he did not flout his targets to individuals; he also tried to penetrate the major issues of Federal Republic politics in thorough analytical commentaries.



Rudolf Augstein, the editor, who has been with 'Der Spiegel' from the beginning.

(Photo: Sven Simon)

After Adenauer's death the name Jens Daniel was dropped and Augstein often adopted the role of "Praeceptor Germania," an impatient admonisher who knew everything, in fact he knew better than anyone else. In retrospect articles which may originally have annoyed some readers read differently.

There is no doubt that Rudolf Augstein often really did know better. His angry battle against the increasingly stubborn Adenauer régime, his criticism of an excessively exclusive Western policy, his early pleas for Eastern contacts—all this appears justified in retrospect.

Does Augstein still think that his method of producing effects was right? This question turned out to be not worth asking because the way in which this man puts his thoughts on paper is not calculated. He expresses himself naturally. "I have never had to ginger up my journalistic temperament. I have often been blatant—but never consciously, for the sake of effect."

As a journalist, Augstein has never lacked possible outlets in his magazine. But what about Augstein as an editor? At least since the Spiegel Affair in 1962 it has often been suggested that *Der Spiegel* has become completely independent of its creator, that Rudolf Augstein has become the slave of his product. Is *Der Spiegel* a giant journalistic locomotive which Augstein originally put on the right lines, but which is now following a track which he no longer controls?

As early as 1961 when the idea of merging *Der Spiegel*, *stern* and *Die Zeit* failed because of Gerd Bucerius' objections concerning the style of *Der Spiegel* Augstein wrote in his colleague's "Of course, I am the prisoner of my system which forces me to deal with politics and public opinion." And in another letter he says, "For ten years or more I have suffered from the fact that it is absolutely impossible to stick to one, that is my, political line in *Der Spiegel*."

Now he sees things differently. "I have created a comfortable prison for myself in which one can live satisfactorily—from an intellectual viewpoint too." Admittedly, the technical restrictions are bad, says Augstein.

Plenty of advertising means that the magazine is larger and this in turn means that *Der Spiegel* also has to include en-



'Der Spiegel' as it was, 'Diese Woche', and as it is today

tertaining articles which do not really fit in. "At any rate, I find this dependence on technical expansion annoying," comments Augstein.

The supposition that on several occasions Augstein has lost his enthusiasm for *Der Spiegel* is confirmed by his various attempts to bound other papers—once a national newspaper, and later a West Berlin weekly paper. His partners, first John Jahr and then Richard Ginner, vetoed these plans. Now that he is the sole owner of the *Spiegel* empire, Augstein is theoretically free to undertake new publishing activities.

The point is that there is no evidence of *Der Spiegel* at the moment. "Jens Jacoby, who was so concerned with circulation, has departed and Ginner Gans, who should pay more attention to the political attitude, does not take over until the beginning of April. So the wealthiest journalist in the Federal Republic is again sitting at his desk and editing manuscripts."

And as ever, he creates that characteristic aura of alluring distance about him. Augstein who combines tender sensibility, friendly warmth, vulnerability which is scarcely perceivable externally, with abrupt coolness, determination and aggressive harshness remains the biggest mystery and certainly the most interesting figure in journalism in this country. He is a man who knows how to live well—but so say his few friends—is not really dependent on the money he earns. His overriding interest is politics—and he would never let this drop.

And what is the political problem which concerns him most at present? "Today, the tensions between the political parties have been pushed into the background—the main issue is the tension between those who want to destroy the genuinely questionable system and those who want to preserve it so long as nothing better or more convincing comes to light." So Rudolf Augstein, who has himself raised some hot social and political issues, has become a reluctant conservative.

But it would be unjust to conclude that he was only trying to preserve his own (large) empire. He wants to preserve critical understanding which—despite all the frothy polemics—in the service of an objective sense of reality, that is of what can be realistically achieved, he has never lacked.

Hans Giesemann
(DIE ZEIT, 21 February 1960)

THEATRE

Two productions of Sophocles' 'Antigone' in Kassel

Frankfurter Allgemeine
ZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

Drapery and outdoor clothes, depth of stage and action before an iron curtain, powerful dramatic dialogue and earthy jargon, individual fate in Thebes and collective narration. This and more in two versions of Sophocles' *Antigone*, presented by the Kassel Staatstheater.

The first version, directed by Ulrich Brecht, was Hölderlin's flowing translation, with its mounting tension and hymn-like rhythms. The quadrangular and circular motifs which designer Almir Mavignier displayed with his pictures at the last two documents exhibitions in Kassel were repeated on the floor of the stage.

To the rear were bold, white suggestions of pillars which edged forward during the play, crowding in on the action. Within these narrowing limits, representing a modern-classical stage view of Thebes, Brecht's direction stresses the tensions between the characters, allowing the tragedy to loom up behind as a spiritual event.

The exits and entrances are tense, concentrated. The confrontation of the characters is deliberately jarring. Irene Marhold as Antigone in a poncho-type cloak,

is composed, energetic, caustic. Objectively, she is always a step in front of the conservative Antigone. Subjectively, her performance is impressive.

Ernst Dietz as Creon "drow" the character and its fate. Tragic depth was not conveyed, and in a sense there was no need for such depth in this setting which in colour tones showed only the scale between black and white and which presented the white-robed chorus in pretty positions.

Antigone in Ulrich Brecht's interpretation was really an energetic and effective re-enactment of Sellner's "instrumental theatre" of the fifties. Sellner, a master of this style, need not be ashamed of his pupil.

It was not merely the presence of several actors from Sellner's old theatre in Darmstadt (Dietz, Leyrer as Tiresias, Gerhard Winter as the messenger) that brought to mind that this was theatre as "reproduction". Director Brecht was not content with this. By way of comparison he arranged for his chief stage-manager, Kai Braak, to follow up with another, more experimental production of Sophocles' play.

Brecht has been good friends with Claus Bremer since they worked together in Sellner's theatre. When Brecht was a theatre manager in Ulm Bremer was his best associate.

Awareness of many possibilities

At that time Bremer was working on an interpretation of Sophocles' text aimed at presenting the play in relaxed, un-literary colloquial language. The Kassel production is based on one of these draft studies. It is influenced by the last major production of the Sellner stage, Ezra Pound's *Women of Trachis* which is a destruction of all rhetoric.

Bremer was always full of plans. While writing the text he took great pains with the chorus. He experimented with radio. He wanted a text "which can be attuned to everyone", breaking through the limits of traditional theatre by freeing the text from rigid divisions into characters. For the first time now this text has acquired "substance" by using this transformatory in a dramatic form which has originated in contemporary drama.

Kai Braak sealed off Ulrich Brecht's stage for his counter-interpretation. He dropped an iron curtain and used it as a reverberating background for the finger-drumming and fist-pounding of his actors. These were dressed in everyday clothes, formed an acting group on and near the apron and presented Bremer's text. Did they present it, or act it, or narrate it? They did all three.

A group does not re-enact a play, it takes a text which deals with its problems. This approach goes one step further than Bert Brecht's. Brecht wrote experimental plays for actors. The Kassel method could be called an exercise for people who happen to be actors.

Sophocles' theme is the conflict of the individual with the power of the state which raises the idea of the state higher than the individual's right to pity and truth. Whatever form conflict with the state may take today, this is the play's theme.

So these young people enthusiastically embrace the new mode of acting. But this will remain modish and nothing else unless the urge springs from a desire to know and to know the truth.

Both girls play Antigone and Ismene. An actor takes first the part of a watchman and then that of Creon. What is or



A scene from Ulrich Brecht's conception of 'Antigone' in a translation done by Friedrich Hölderlin.

(Photos: Wilhelm Pabst)

This new form of group theatre, of the mobile ensemble has already developed its own aesthetic qualities. A new artistic form of speech and sound, grouping and distinguishing voices, screams, noise, articulation, recitative, sentence dissection, agglomerations, choric speech with delayed effects (a departure from the well-drilled chorus)—all this is correspondingly expressed in movement, in group formation, rows, chains, crush and separation of bodies.

The instruments of a new form of acting, which has felt its own way from its early beginnings, are recognised in Braak's production. To this extent the Kassel *Antigone* evening has "historical" value in the context of contemporary theatre. This is also the key to many of the problems connected with this approach.

For the first time Braak superimposes the new style of acting on a "classical" play of antiquity. He builds on a text which appeared in 1965 as a draft text which still followed Sophocles' arrangement of fixed roles and acknowledges the entire Greek system of reference and values.

This is most obvious in the invocation of Zeus, in the ecstasy with the calling for Bacchus. A style of acting which is itself in conflict with tradition, which expresses its rebellion against "theatre" in the rejection of stage settings, cannot assimilate such "classical" elements directly or without reflection.

The play ends with the warning, "You must obey the laws that are eternal." But these too are being called in question. They must at least be redefined. In such references to the "eternal values" the hollow corners of the text and mode of presentation are perceived.

Such hollowiness should not "happen" to a production such as that of the Kassel

Staatstheater. The difficulties involved should be revealed as such and integrated into the action of the play.

The author must adjust his text more accurately to the pattern of acting. Bremer "merely" translated the play in 1965, he did not really prepare it for an entirely new form of presentation. This is what caused that repeated sense of blurring in the second half. Deserted by the actors because they seem powerless to do otherwise the text shows up its threadbare qualities.

Braak's production demonstrates many aspects of Living Theatre. At one stage Creon becomes a many-mouthed monster when the group arranges itself snakelike around a speaker. The seer, Tiresias, becomes a bogey when draped with articles of clothing taken from other players. At other times the roles are switched more arbitrarily.

That the words about Nisus are spoken by Antigone is not very clear because the speakers switch roles just at that moment. It seems doubtful that women can take the part of Creon since the emancipation of women, their role in society, is not quite that advanced yet.

Both productions were of a high standard. Their true quality was in the tension between them, suggesting the unfolding of new dimensions in tragedy.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 15 February 1969)

Writers turn publisher

In Frankfurt a group of writers have decided to found a cooperative publishing company. Those participating are: Bazon Brock, Wolfgang Deidtsel, Peter Handke, Günther Herburger, Harimut Lange, Gerlind Reinshagen, Erika Runge, Martin Sperr, Dieter Waldmann, Konrad Witsch and Jochen Ziem.

This authors' publishing house will produce mainly dramatic literature. Karlheinz Braun, until 31 March head of the drama department of the Suhrkamp Verlag, and Wolfgang Wien, hitherto a reader in the Theater am Turm in Frankfurt, have been appointed managing directors. The group believes that a publishing house operating on a cooperative basis would be most effective as an imprint producing works of drama.

The enterprise was made possible because Siegfried Unseld, head of the Suhrkamp Verlag, waived his right of option in the case of authors whose stage-rights had been in Suhrkamp hands. With respect to publication rights and the rights of plays hitherto represented by Suhrkamp Verlag existing connections between the authors and Suhrkamp will be maintained.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 February 1969)



Actors reading in front of the curtain from Kai Braak's version of 'Antigone'.

CINEMA

Last year's films full of contrasts and extremes

Last year's crop of films brought disappointments, surprises, contrasts and extremes. Even the cinema-going public was for the most part disappointed by the home products, with which we are concerned here. Attendance dropped. Despite extensive sexual "enlightenment," people were still confused, if not shocked.

Judging by the box-office returns, the most successful film was the sex-educational production, *Helga*. This was the first of a series of films and was unexpectedly successful abroad. It was seen by three million viewers, a record that won Minister of Health Käthe Strobel the "Golden Screen" award.

Surprisingly, the next most successful film on the charts was the comedy, *Die Lünne von der ersten Bank*. Then came



May Spils' Swabian burlesque, *Zur Sache, Schätzchen*, which has run for over a year in one cinema in Munich.

Close behind these come erotic comedy's *Die Wirten von der Lahn* and Maian Gosov's *Engelchen, oder die Jungfrau von Bamberg*, whose producer is the only young German film-maker in the leading group.

New movements are not always identical with young movements in this country, nor in most others for that matter. The Oberhausen group has decided to retain for another year the executive of its study group of young Federal Republic film-makers. One member of this group is Alexander Kluge, whose prize-winning *Atten im der Zirkuskuppel* rufus not only baffled the public but the critics as well.

Also in this group is Peter Schamoni (*Schönheit für Pilsch*) who produced the West Berlin lark, *Quartett im Bett*, which has had quite a good run. Peter's brother, Ulrich, who wrote and directed the film, is not, however, a member of the Oberhausen group of young film-makers.

This split between the New and the Young runs not only through families but

through the entire rebel group. For the rebels who in 1962 declared that conventional cinema was dead have since grown up and are several experiences the wiser.

Some of them have come to terms with the commercial market. Others have not survived the main pitfall of every first film, self-portrayal. Others again avoided the box-office entirely. Only Roger Fritz with his first film *Mädchen, Mädchen*, and Johannes Schaaf's *Tüftler* are still on the bestseller list.

For various reasons it is difficult to say what can be expected now of the New Movement. Funds are running low in the pool that has helped to finance new films in the past and more money does not seem to be forthcoming. Producers are now hopefully appealing to the Federal states for assistance.

Hamburg's "anderes Kino," which made news for the first time during the dispute over the pornographic film *Besonders verurteilt*, has opened in Munich where it hopes to attract off-beat patrons with abstract films and a new approach to film-viewing. The promoters are as contemplative of commercial films as Munich's "Independent Film Center" which besides regular showings is now organising a meeting of European film-makers. Fifty participants from Britain, Italy, Holland, Austria, Switzerland and the Federal Republic want to remove existing taboos, depart from the conventional aesthetics of film-making and establish their own European distribution network.

Are the old-style films and producers doomed to extinction? Not necessarily. Many producers who have spent a lifetime making conventional films (Walter Wallace, Karl May) are now as busy as the young ones tossing inhibitions overboard and swimming with the sexual tide. They are methodically pursuing the lucrative "enlightenment" policy of other mass media and occasionally manage to strike the right note and attract the crowds.

The standards and methods of these producers vary naturally. Their speculative adventures doubtless also give a false impression of the exclusiveness of their films in proportion to the number on the market. The patronage such films enjoy in this country does not speak well for the reputation of the German film.

Besides Kella and Van de Veldt, other home-brewed "literature" is appearing on the screen. Variants of, say, *Die Wirten von der Lahn* are appearing. After *Helga's* success naked men and women are tripping over each other in their eagerness to instruct the population in the facts of life, teetering now on the illegal limits of homosexual scenes.

Nevertheless, the wave of sex and instruction that has swept the country is receding. Curiously and the thirst for knowledge have been quelled. Even the magazines are shunning too much bottom and bosom and are dipping into other material.

In films too the pendulum is swinging in the other direction. Ufa director Friedrich Karl Pflughaupt says that the new trend is towards family films. The Panker films are one instance of this. Kurt Hoffmann's emotional production of the novel, *Morgens um sieben ist die Welt noch in Ordnung*, is filling the cinemas. The box-office here seems to be in order after seven o'clock.

Other producers are entering wider dimensions of film-making and many are doing quite well. These are generally coproductions with wealthy partners, and the emphasis is on presentation.

"Alte" Brauner, for example, invested millions in his Felix Dahn production, *Ein Kampf um Rom*. His latest film on the life of the Marquis de Sade with an international cast is expected to cost two million dollars. This will be a co-production with an American company.

"Traditional cinema is neither dead or old-fashioned," said Brauner. In December he was awarded the "Golden Screen" for the first part of his *Nibelungen*, which must have been seen by more than three million people last year.

Cinema-owners' main concern is still competition from television. Over forty feature films were shown last year on television. "That is premeditated murder," complained the cinema-owners' trade journal.

"The murderers are in our midst," observed a West Berlin film pundit, referring to the fact that many of the films shown in television are sold by the producers. Cinema-owners' worries are not unfounded. Nearly 500 cinemas closed their doors last year.

Many proprietors are at their wit's end, especially as the organisation set up last year to promote the film industry has not yet done anything to help them in this respect. Proprietors were reluctant to approve of such an organisation. They did so only on condition that a straightforward film-promotion policy would be pursued. As a mark of official protest, the president of the association represent-

ing the interests of cinema proprietors resigned from the film and television commission that had been set up.

No small surprise was occasioned by the list of reference films which exceeded a certain box-office minimum in 1967. The producers of these films will receive grants for new projects to the tune of 150,000 Marks plus 100,000 Marks for television rights.

Other grants will be given for special distinctions achieved. Besides work from only six young producers, the list included run-of-the-mill productions such as *Der Mörderclub von Brooklyn* (The Murderers' Club in Brooklyn), *Das älteste Gewerbe der Welt* (The Oldest Profession in the World), *Wenn es Nacht wird auf der Reeperbahn* (When Night Falls on the Reeperbahn), *Das Rascheln der grauen Puppen* (The Ina of the Cruel Dolls), and *Der Mönch mit der Peitsche* (The Monk with the Whip).

The organisation that does out money to these producers is not so much bewildered as ill-advised. Was Alexander Kluge speaking the truth in the disillusioned words of his circus director, Loni Peiker? "In view of the inhuman situation, the artist's only alternative is to raise the degree of difficulty of his art."

Say it—and go over to television. (Hendelblatt, 7 February 1969)

Inter-war films stored in Washington

Over one thousand German films dating from 1925 to 1945, which were confiscated by American troops after the war, are still in America. Copies of most of them do not exist, at least not in the Federal Republic, according to the West Berlin author, Gerlind Reinshagen, whose series, *Film im Dritten Reich*, began recently in the Third Programme of the Westdeutsche radio.

Schönberger said that 880 of the 1,000 films are stored in the Library of Congress in Washington. A large part of this material, important for the documentation and demonstration of propaganda aimed at influencing and mobilising the masses is in danger of rotting away, since these are fragile nitrate films.

The American government has offered to release the films if 16 mm copies are made. No person or institution has yet been found in the Federal Republic, however, to raise the necessary funds.

(DIE WELT, 15 February 1969)

Günter Grass's new play is a dud!

Günter Grass, whose new play *Davor* received its premiere in West Berlin's Schillertheater, stated in the programme that he set out to write a dialectic play. He wanted to describe what happens before a deed is committed or not committed.

In doing so the author wanted to draw attention to that most significant time *davor*, which means before the act. For, it is generally known (and amounts almost to the German fate in this century) that it is no use contemplating the deed and its consequences after it has been committed, and only then to deplore it. This is Grass's good intention, and it must be commended.

What takes place on the stage of the Schillertheater? Dialectic, dialectic, conscience-searching and any amount of brain-picking.

What does not take place is any drama in the traditional context of theatre. Grass was prepared to dispense with such "superficial drama," and to develop ways of departing from it in his dialectic play.

The audience, however, was not at all pleased with this course. The applause ceased immediately after the actors, Lietzau and Grass appeared on the stage. It was then too that boos were heard.

Grass's dialectic play coincides with events that took place towards the end of



1967. Napalm is dropping from the heavens in Vietnam, Buddhist monks and nuns are protesting by burning themselves, the youth of the Western world, including young Germans, are taking to the streets denouncing the Americans, and in the Federal Republic the Grand Coalition has come into power.

A few facts to suggest a background for what Philipp Scherbaum, a seventeen-year-old secondary school pupil intends to do. He intends to burn his dog Max in public before the cake-eating ladies of the Kurfürstendamm. The cake was to stick in their throats, their awareness of what is going on in the world was to be sharpened.

Scherbaum figured that a burning German dog would be a greater shock for

people than a burning South Vietnamese nun or a child ravaged by the effects of napalm. He also expected to be lynched by passers-by, because it is a terrible thing to burn an innocent animal.

All this Scherbaum had planned very shrewdly and made no secret of it to his teacher, Starusch. It is Starusch's concern now (and of course that of Grass's and the plays) to dissuade the youth from committing his "suicidal" deed.

The teacher tries to persuade Philipp that the foreseeable consequences of such a horrible deed would be far different from what the boy imagines. The senselessness of a deed must also be recognised *davor*.

This is the essential point of the play. Grass was perhaps not quite felicitous in his choice of example—the arguments brought to bear on the boy are surely overshadowed and disproved by events in Prague.

Apart from this, however, Grass's example leads to nothing. To nothing,

that is, except an endless stream of reasoning about the ineptitude of the older generation, their inability to shake off their feelings of guilt and to protect young people from making the same mistakes.

At the end Scherbaum yields (he is "softened," according to his ideologically sounder schoolmate) and abandons his plan. This is really the end of the play. Everything else is dialectics in dialogue form, at times witty and to the point, at times convincing, for the most part numbing.

Instead of a chorus Grass found a dentist who is obsessed with caries. In the background he examines people's mouths and generally poses as the modern way.

Also sinking about is a nemetic secondary school assistant mistress who cannot come to terms with her Nazi Bundesdeutscher-Mädchen past. The play lasted two hours on an open stage and only stayed on its feet thanks to excellent acting.

Credit is due to director Hans Lietzau for his delicate treatment of the material, and also to the actors who managed to squeeze comedy even out of the intellectual to and fro.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 17 February 1969)

THINGS SEEN

What is Op art?

Op Art is a term which was introduced at the end of 1964 and the beginning of 1965, and was at first confusing. People in Europe had just become familiar with Pop Art and had only just fully accepted that the USA had taken over the leading role in the modern art scene.

People talked half with amazement at its effectiveness and half with scepticism about the New York management which is behind the American art boom. And as it is confirmation of this smart new mixture of art, business sense and publicity, Op followed Pop within the space of a season and shortly afterwards Kinetic Art gave way to Minimal Art.

It was as if simply because of the similar spelling of the words Op and Pop the popular success of the new realism was to be repeated. The uninitiated saw an inestimable, unexploited potential in the artistic terra incognita Americana, for Op Art was like a dramatic counter movement to Pop Art.

The change of direction and counter-direction, which modern art in Europe had taken decades to achieve, seemed to have been reduced to the rhythm of fashion shows in the American art explosion.

"Optical Art," which the quick-witted American news magazine Time, immediately abbreviated to Op Art, was taken up by fabric designers, window-dressers and the like even more quickly than Pop Art. Backed up by an enormous amount of publicity in periodicals and fashion magazines, an art form suddenly became fashion itself. This had never happened in the art world previously.

In February 1965 Op Art received the highest blessing which the international

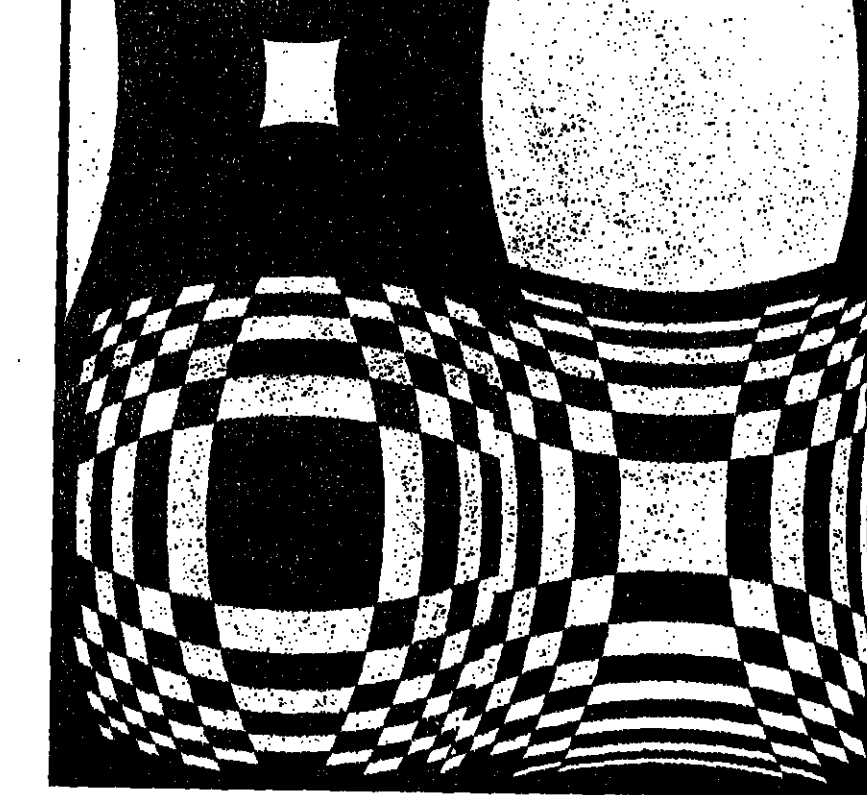
art community can bestow, the seal of respectability, the approbation of its commercial prospects, thanks to the exhibition entitled The Responsive Eye at the New York Museum of Modern Art. This exhibition presented a varied conglomeration of artists who were concerned with colour and form in some way or another, but who could not be regarded as action painters or new realists.

More than half the works on display were by Americans; there were several hard-headed paintings, like those by Kelly and Stella, and even Morris Louis' colour strips were shown. The other artists were Europeans, except for a few South Americans.

On critical observation the rather term Op Art turned out to mean nothing more than the artistic trend which came into its own after the Second World War, which used optical phenomena and was established by Vasarely. It derived from the constructivists and the teaching of Albers' and Moholy-Nagy.

Danise René in Paris had long supported this trend with her "movement" exhibitions; the Zagreb exhibitions in 1961 and 1965 entitled "New Tendencies" and Sandberg's Amsterdam show "Bevoegen Bewegen" in 1961 had propagated this new optical art, although still in the context of kinetic works.

During the 1964/65 exhibition season the concept of Op Art, a trend largely developed by Europeans, was for the superficial observer turned into an American movement, or at least one that was recognised and stylised by Americans. After all, Josef Albers who emigrated to the USA in 1933 could — on the other



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Apart from Albers, who again plays a mediating role in this instance, there is only one other American amongst the 24 exhibitors. The honesty with which the works have been selected cannot be attributed to any kind of European prestige considerations. On the contrary, if anything this exhibition unites two characteristic artists, Yusef Karam.

Ideally, Op Art works make the viewer conscious of seeing as an autonomous activity. Vasarely once said that to experience the presence of a work of art is more important than understanding it. Taken to extremes, this means that the appearance is more important than the content, the optical stimulation more important than comprehending the reality of the work.

Works which are strictly conceived according to such ideas often make more and more physical, but no intellectual, demands on the viewer because of the aggressivity of their optical illusions. This, from the artist's viewpoint, pure conception of a work of art — perception and comprehension are identical, they demand no intermediary non-visual elements — was the source of Op Art's immediate success and its triumphal integration into the optical media, from carrier-bags to television.

Apart from Vasarely and Albers, Dr Aust has gathered together a wide spectrum of younger artists whose works have been on show at numerous exhibitions during recent years: from Soto and Le Parc to Anuszkiewicz, the American, and Gerstner, Mack and Luther. The British artist Bridget Riley is represented and so is Pole Fangor.

The variety of means of expression indicates that the term Optical Art is artificial; it characterises a similarity between works but does not describe an artistic trend. Stimulating vision, if it proves to be an optical trick as Optical Art implies, is unimportant.

Stimulating vision meaning heightened sensibility and increased perceptibility has been one of the objectives of art since Impressionism; but artists have sought to achieve this aim not simply

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(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 14 February 1969)

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(Hannoversche Presse, 14 February 1969)

MEDICINE

Medical meeting at Hanover discusses oestrogen effects

A recent conference organised by the Federal Republic Medical Information Service in Hanover, the topics discussed included the formation and decomposition of oestrogen in metabolism, the genital and extra-genital effects of these sex hormones, and decreased excretion of oestrogen during pregnancy as a sign that the embryo is in danger.

Professor Lantieri of Ulna University Hospital reported that twenty estrogenic substances have been identified in humans to date. Most of these substances including oestradiol and oestron, which is ten times weaker than the former, are formed in the ovary but estril is produced by the liver. Chemically these three substances are very similar, but physiologically there are notable differences between them.

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After the menopause daily oestrogen production falls off to 10 to 40 gammas; incidentally this quantity is also produced in a man's testicles and is contained in a litre of beer as it is present in hops.

But during pregnancy 150 milligrammes of oestrogen are produced, that is three hundred times as much as during the peak non-pregnancy period. The estrogenic substances released from the ovary into the blood quickly appear in the liver and kidneys. They are only in the bloodstream for six minutes!

The liver is the main metabolic organ; here the oestrogen is metabolised and

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Apart from their effects on sexual organs, estrogenic substances have very distinct extra-genital effects. For example, they have a stabilising influence on the vegetative nervous system and reduce blood pressure; this is why they are suitable for the treatment of menopausal complaints.

They improve the resistance of the capillaries and strengthen the blood vessels, so they are prescribed in large doses for hemostasis. They reduce the cholesterol level in the blood; this is why women who have efficient ovaries or who are under long-term oestrogen treatment hardly ever have arteriosclerosis or heart attacks.

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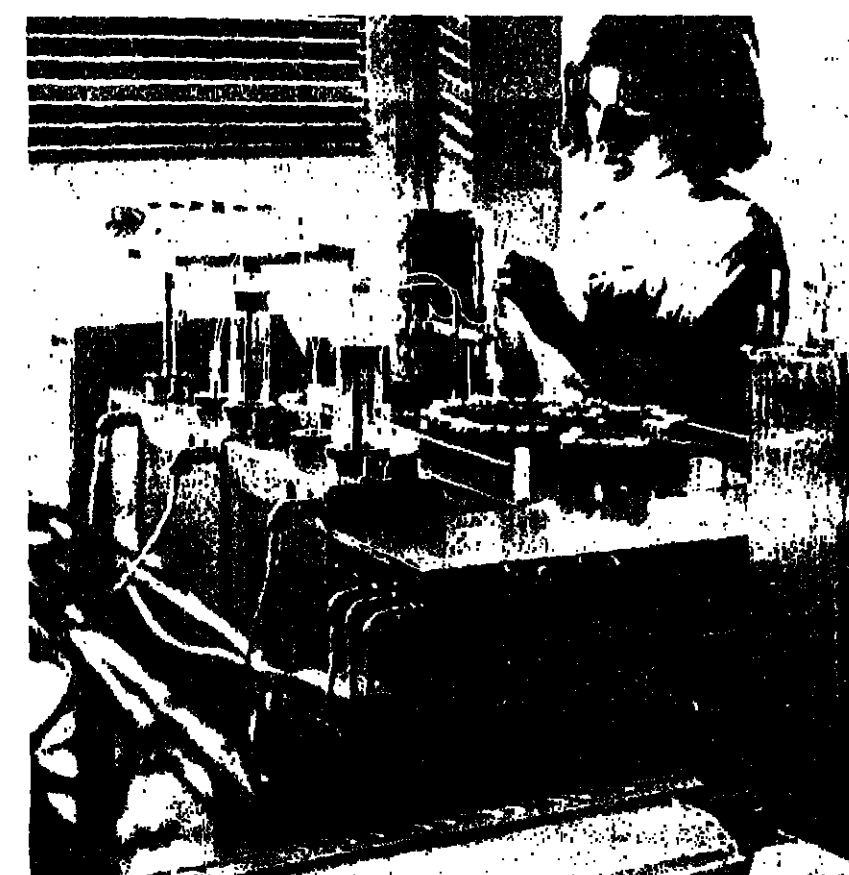
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Blood specimens being tested in the automatic lab system established at Tübingen University clinic. (Photo: dpa)

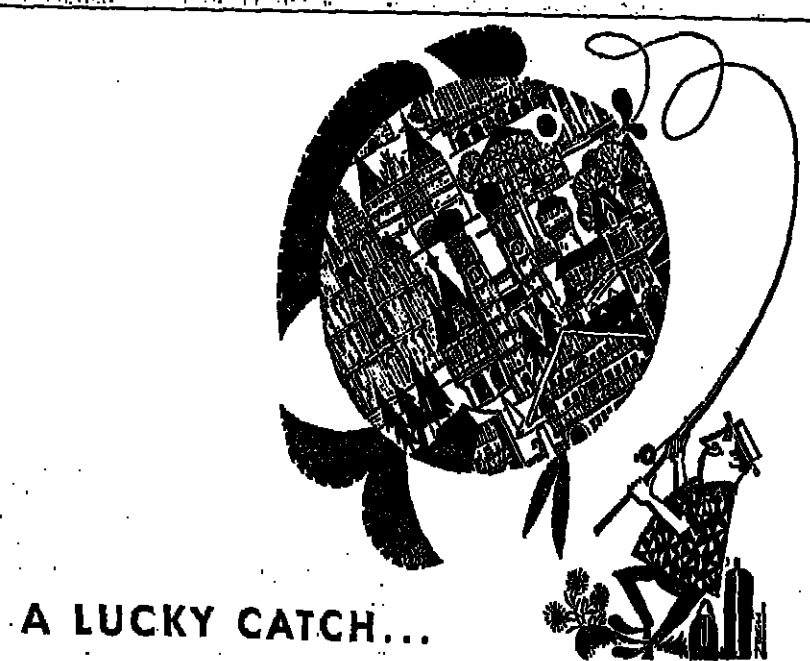
the laboratories and analysers in analogue or digital form. The automatic analysers work on a two- or twelve-channel system; this means that one specimen can be used for two or twelve investigations simultaneously.

Naturally the Tübingen computer operates on the Time-Sharing-Executive method. This means that the computing time available is shared by several operators; according to a definite priority system, the computer uses pauses lasting the tiniest fraction of a second, which occur during one particular information process;

for the next important information process. A special programme ensures that even unexpected information which is fed into the computer is not wasted but stored.

For this purpose, three storage units with a capacity of over half a million "words" each are attached to the computer brain, which has a capacity of 32,768 "words" of sixteen bits (information units) each. 36,000 words per second can be exchanged between the two storage systems.

(DIE WELT, 18 February 1969)



A LUCKY CATCH...

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Op Art

THINGS SEEN

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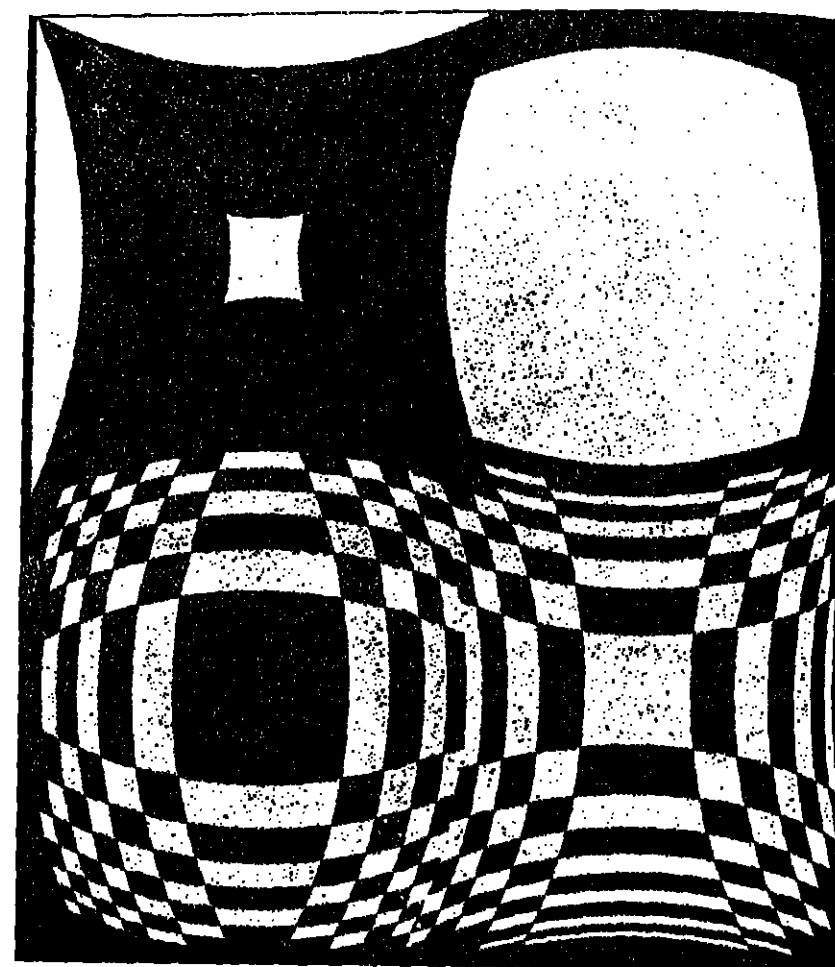
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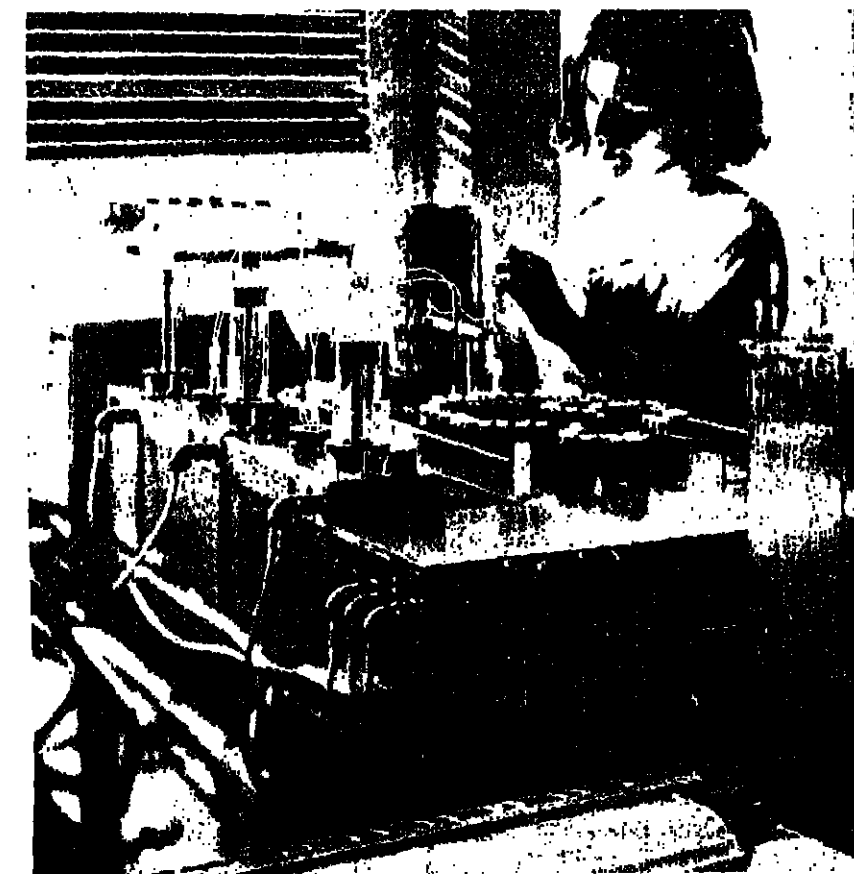
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Blood specimens being tested in the automatic lab system established at Tübingen University clinic.

(Photo: dpa)

the laboratories and analysers in analogue or digital form. The automatic analysers work on a two- or twelve-channel system; this means that one specimen can be used for two or twelve investigations simultaneously.

Naturally the Tübingen computer operates on the Time-Sharing-Executive method. This means that the computing time available is shared by several operators; according to a definite priority system, the computer uses pauses lasting the tiniest fraction of a second, which occur during one particular information process.

For the next important information process. A special programme ensures that even unexpected information which is fed into the computer is not wasted but stored.

For this purpose, three storage units with a capacity of over half a million "words" each are attached to the computer brain, which has a capacity of 32,768 "words" of sixteen bits (information units) each. 36,000 words per second can be exchanged between the two storage systems.

(DIE WELT, 18 February 1968)

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67

INDUSTRY

Industrial giants are not immune to competition

The spectacular foundation of Ruhrkohle in November 1968 was, it now seems, nothing other than a demonstration of a concession to Bonn and the miners' union, the IG Bergbau. Indeed, the difficulties are now so enormous that one is inclined to wonder whether this complex of mining companies under joint management will ever function and whether it is at all desirable that it should.

In Bonn and elsewhere talks are still going on, but the major problems involved are more entangled than ever. It must be decided what Ruhrkohle should undertake in the next twenty years and what it should avoid.

If the organisation is committed to a "dynamic business policy" to avoid having to avail itself of the Federal guarantees for the compensation of the original companies, it will come into conflict with these original owners who are now the its shareholders. Just think of what is at stake: large power stations, refineries, chemical works and other enterprises.

The alternative could be to courtail output of coal, coke and briquettes, but it would be most doubtful whether Ruhrkohle could meet its commitments without realising the Federal guarantees, without spending the tax payer's money, that is. Many question marks stand out in the reports that have been made.

If Ruhrkohle is given free rein, however, the danger exists that it will create facilities which will require such high depreciation allowances that the government will be forced to help with the repayments. Even those who favour the development of such a combine admit that it would only be feasible if at least 85 per cent of the Ruhr mining industry (in terms of output) joined the scheme.

This prospect is gloomier than ever. Such large-scale participation would only be possible if it were decided to abandon the uniform principles of evaluation of the pooled assets (principles that are based incidentally on the book values of 1949) and to introduce instead a system of valuation application to each colliery in turn, taking assets and long-term earning capacity into consideration. This would be the normal procedure in industry in the case of mergers.

It is a procedure, however, that would take years to complete, and that is why the experts wished to avoid it. Now it is obvious, however, that several mining companies which might be prepared to join the organisation would be severely handicapped by the schematic valuation system.

Under present circumstances the Companies Act would hardly permit these

concerns to assume the responsibility vis-à-vis their shareholders of joining the organisation. Two firms have filed a plea with the Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe to avoid being "pressed into the scheme."

Either consideration must be made for the justifiable interests of these companies, specified clearly in the Companies Act, which might set off a chain reaction; or hopes of 85 per cent participation must be abandoned and planners should be content if seventy per cent of Ruhr companies cooperate. In this case, the estimates hitherto made must be scotched.

Nothing can be achieved with massive threats, such as the withdrawal of subsidies or similar measures. To complicate matters still further the coke contracts with the steel industry, supply contracts with Ruhr power stations, which are still in the hands of the original companies; and the question of living accommodation ownership are most involved.

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dustries' main source of coke in the Community. Ruhr facilities could not meet such demand, however, since many coking plants are either too small or too old.

Experts estimate that about 1,000 million Marks would have to be invested in new large-scale coking plant. Who should build the plant? The steel works or the collieries? Who will meet the demand for coking coal? At present, supplies are just about sufficient. Coking coal subsidies for the steel industry, and, consequently, the Federal guarantees, cannot be divorced from the simple question of alternative supply.

This is just to touch on a few of the difficulties involved. It remains to be asked whether this projected mammoth complex is the only answer to the Ruhr's dilemma or whether five or six viable groups of enterprises should be formed in the Ruhr.

These could easily be formed through a series of ordinary mergers covering the entire list of assets. Each group would be organised in accordance with the new laws regulating the adjustment of output to overall demand.

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Understandably, the endless trouble with coal is a worry to everyone, not only to Bonn.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 15 February 1969)

Ruhr coal problem lingers and lingers and lingers

The agreement between the August Thyssen concern and Mannesmann to cooperate in the manufacture of steel tubes has again animated the debate on the trend towards greater concentration of resources. The sharp increase in the number of mergers in the last two or three years provoked less criticism than was levelled at this tendency in previous years. The view has been widely adopted that economic expansion depends largely on the size of enterprises and that the pace is set by the largest.

This has most clearly been demonstrated by Japan which, according to the latest statistics, is now the third largest industrial country in the world. This great advance was due mainly to the construction and extension of industrial plant.

It was not to be denied that this country's largest concerns, with few exceptions, belong to the medium-size category, by international standards. They can only hold their own in international

they were supplied by a greater number of manufacturers. Supply might be limited, quality would suffer and prices would be too high.

That such a situation could arise if the market were dominated by one or more companies cannot be denied. But is such a development possible if free competition is not deliberately abolished by the government (by approving monopolies or import barriers)? What is today a market? National boundaries are not market boundaries.

Even the EEC, with the exception of a few products, cannot be regarded as a fenced-in market. Competition today spans all boundaries and all distances.

This is a result not only of the abolition of tariffs and other trade barriers but also of the acceleration and lower cost of transport facilities, especially over long distances.

Besides, the structure of international companies of the necessity to improve marketing centres in a number of countries has brought about radical changes in the pattern of world-wide competition. The hold a company has on a market can be lost tomorrow if a foreign competitor offers better products at cheaper prices.

This international competition offers effective protection to consumers against exploitation of the marketing media by companies with a powerful hold on the market. Competition also obliges leading domestic companies to utilise very means of reducing costs and improving the quality of their products.

When a company, no matter how strong its position on the market, uses the advantage it has over its competitors merely to widen its profit margins without increasing production, it would give its competitors an opportunity to improve their foothold on the market and ultimately perhaps take the lead.

The size of a company is an important factor in many sectors, but size alone is not beneficial in all sectors. Size may be an advantage, but it does not remove competition by pooling their resources or companies with manufacturing plant and their production facilities and the need to adapt their production programmes as far as possible to the demands of the consumers on whom they depend.

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(Frankfurter Rundschau, 18 February 1969)

CONSUMER GOODS

Deep-frozen foods leave housewives cold

POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPANSION ARE AVAILABLE

The most important development in the food industry in the next ten years will be the storage of 65 per cent of foodstuffs in deep-freeze units. This forecast for the American market made by the periodical *Quick Frozen Foods* sounds like wishful thinking to most producers of frozen foods in this country. Consumption of frozen foods per head of population in the United States has climbed to over sixty pounds weight annually, compared to only five pounds in the Federal Republic.

Nevertheless, producers in this country have reason to be pleased with themselves. The market for frozen foods is only now being developed. After hesitant beginnings in the fifties the market began to expand in 1962 when 55,000 tons of frozen foods (excluding poultry and ice cream) were produced. The 1967/68 figure was 129,870 tons.

Growth rates in recent years have levelled off at about ten per cent. Last year, sales shot ahead of this mark, accord to available estimates. It is hoped that this increase will be maintained in the years ahead.

The market in this sector, as in many others, has undergone many changes in recent years. In the early sixties when suppliers were proud of every new product they marketed, when it was more a question of the quality of the product than of the presentation of new product ideas, sales were not yet the main problem.

Today, this is no longer so. Suppliers' concern with proprietary products has waned, prices are not taboo any more.



The market for frozen foods, newly organised, has become an important factor in industry.

By creating their own brands, traders are even now competing with industry. This is a very important development for the frozen foods market. Suppliers want to know when investments in storage and deep-freeze facilities will begin to show a profit. They want to know where the rapid turnover lies in this sector, where the big profits are to be made.

About 100 companies are now producing frozen foods. These are not only under pressure from the trade. Findus-Jopa, Unilever and the GEG, three leading suppliers, managed to reduce the high proportion of basic costs they have had in recent years in overall costs. These still largely determine the costs structure.

Basic costs result from freezing operations (equipment, storage, transport etc.) and from marketing facilities which are largely constant in this industry. Besides, the great variety of the products which are harvested at different times of the year require great mobility in the process of production. Multi-purpose equipment must be used.

Only now have the leading manufacturers—Findus and Iglo account for about thirty per cent of sales, Tiko for fifteen per cent—exceeded the break-even point and are showing a positive balance. Basic

costs demand full utilisation of facilities and rapid turnover. Only with quantities such as are now being produced can basic costs per unit of production be reduced to the point when some profit remains.

Although Findus-Jopa, for example, succeeded in reducing production costs by one sixth since 1960, basic costs still require that more and more new ideas must be tried out, all the more so because the market structure has changed in recent years.

Manufacturers are confronted with consumer habits which suggest that housewives are still not very partial to the idea of frozen foods. Why is this? Manufacturers cannot say.

Conditions for a major breakthrough would seem to be ideal in this country, if one discounts the fact that a gulf exists between suppliers and consumers. Yet at the beginning of last year only eleven to twelve per cent of households in the Federal Republic possessed its own freezer, according to figures issued by the industry's association.

Most people are fairly prosperous in this country. When business is good, sales of frozen foods show an increase. Many women are working and have little time for cooking at home. With the tensions of professional life increasing also in this country, the desire for greater leisure is stronger than ever. And yet sales of frozen foods are only edging upward.

Comparative figures from Scandinavian countries are quoted again and again. Per capita consumption in Sweden is sixteen pounds, in Norway and Denmark seven pounds and in Britain almost ten pounds.

Is the German housewife simply not economically minded? Is she still loyal to grandmother's cookery book? Is she not aware of the time saved with frozen foods? Has she tasted too many frozen products which were not quite up to par in quality and taste? Are the quantities on sale too much for one-man households? Is the range of products on the market still too small? Who can say?

Manufacturers do not know quite where to begin. "If we knew, we would long since have opened up the market,"

said a Findus spokesman. While this decision remains, it would be wiser perhaps to concentrate on the more economically minded large-scale consumers who boosted sales in 1967 by eighteen per cent. Household sales went up only five per cent. Domestic packages of frozen foods still account for seventy per cent of returns, however.

Manufacturers and traders should do more therefore than simply follow the market trend. Advertising must be better organised. Consumers must be better informed of the advantages of frozen foods.

In this matter of consumer instruction manufacturers are disconcerted with suppliers who they say are not making the right effort to promote frozen foods. Since frozen foods account for only a small percentage of overall food sales, the considerable profit margin going with a packet of frozen food is not fully appreciated. Many traders are apt to conclude that frozen foods are not worth the trouble. The very opposite is true, say the makers, who deplore this attitude.

Much could be achieved too with a more flexible production policy. Sales have been carried since the early sixties by frozen-vegetable soups, fish fingers and spinach. A vast number of other products have come on the market since then, but none of them has sold as well as these three.

The trade needs these "runners," however. Findus believes it has found one in a new cod fillet that was recently launched and has surpassed the firm's expectations.

Usually when a product is launched a slump sets in after the curiosity wave of buying has passed. Findus cod is still as popular as ever. Findus is convinced that new ideas are what will sell frozen foods. In the fifties and early sixties it was a question of inducing people to touch them at all. Now presentation is vital.

Production can expand any time with the market. The facilities are available. Existing plant can be extended without much trouble by simply adding more production units.

Traders too have their reserves. About eighty per cent of the 174,000 retail outlets in this country are equipped with deep-freeze storage units.

The speed at which these will be filled and emptied in future depends on the success of advertising campaigns which must be instructive and attractive, and on the introduction of a more flexible production policy. But suppliers too must make a greater effort to interest their customers in frozen food products.

(Die Welt, 15 February 1969)

New advertising agency set up in Stuttgart

Stuttgart has a new advertising centre. "What Madison Avenue is for New York, Stuttgart's advertising centre Europe, could become for the old Continent, namely, a focal point of the advertising business," wrote one enthusiastic reporter.

This may take some time. The founder and managing director of the centre—Werbecenter-Gesellschaft media—forty-two-year-old Gerhard E. Scheible, expects a turnover this year from rents and fees of 1.2 million Marks.

The centre cost 2.5 million Marks to build. All the offices in the building have since found tenants. The show-rooms and exhibition rooms have been rented mostly by manufacturers of advertising gifts and material of every description.

Gerhard E. Scheible owns the Center Display Verlag which sells display material. He also runs Center Präsent, a wholesale advertising gift concern. These two firms share half of the capital stock (20,000 Marks) of the new centre.

Scheible has refused to say who is putting up the other half. The name entered in the commercial register is Dr. J. P. Probst (Lugano).

A press notice said that two foreign enterprises had shared the cost of the centre. Their fifty per cent interest is being held in trust.

Scheible, who comes from Swabia, aims at establishing contacts between suppliers of advertising material and services and the advertising industry. Services of various description will be offered in his centre.

For 850 Marks a year a company can avail itself of the centre's facilities. Advice will be given in matters concerning advertising and sales, publications and supply and demand.

One department in the new centre, for example, can ascertain without delay where a four-colour prospectus could be quickly printed. A conference room complete with bar is at the disposal of companies who wish to hold seminars, give receptions or simply arrange informal meetings.

Scheible intends to pursue a policy of strict neutrality. If the centre is successful, he may set up others in different parts of the country and perhaps abroad.

(Der Volkswirt, 14 February 1969)

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THE GERMAN FINANCIAL PAPER
FOR COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT

(Die Welt, 14 February 1969)

Anglo-German business talks

British and Federal Republic businessmen intend to meet for regular talks on practical recommendations for closer cooperation, if the British follow the proposal made by Alwin Münchmeyer to the British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, during the latter's visit to the DIHT (Deutscher Industrie- und Handelsstag). Münchmeyer suggested to the Prime Minister that industrialists from both countries should meet regularly, for example, on an "Investment Committee."

Workable ways of extending relations between businessmen are to be examined. These would benefit both sides, since both countries' interests are complementary.

Britain welcomes all forms of capital

imports, the Federal Republic all forms of capital exports. If British enterprises, whether publicly or privately owned, were to raise loans on the Federal Republic market, as their French counterparts are accustomed to doing, this country's balance of payments surpluses and the British payments deficits would be reduced.

Mr Wilson promised to discuss the matter with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Confederation of British Industry.

Regular contacts also further other common interests. With Europe in mind, such plans for practical cooperation are very welcome. Perhaps it is time for economists to steal the march on the politicians.

(Die Welt, 15 February 1969)

INDUSTRY

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The alternative could be to curtail output of coal, coke and briquettes, but it would be most doubtful whether Ruhrkohle could meet its commitments without realising the Federal guarantees, without spending the tax payer's money, that is. Many question marks stand out in the reports that have been made.

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(Frankfurter Rundschau, 18 February 1969)

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It was not to be denied that this country's largest concerns, with few exceptions, belong to the medium-size category, by international standards. They can only hold their own in international

competition. Nor does it relieve large developing other forms of cooperation.

In manufacturing, supply of raw material, sales and especially in research and development such closer cooperation would give them financial, organisational and technological opportunities similar to those enjoyed by their foreign competitors. Only with equal chances from the start can these companies hope to hold their own in the long term.

The alliance between Thyssen and Mannesmann seems to have come as a shock to many. It is difficult to say what has caused the great anxiety, the predominant position of both companies in the home market for steel tubes, or the prospect of both firms forming a closer partnership at a later date.

Both firms are bound to profit from the agreement on the production of steel tubes. Profit ability and competitive potential are sure to improve, especially abroad.

Critics of this and similar agreements are asking if the economy in its entirety, especially consumers, profit from the formation of greater production units or if this could have detrimental effects. It is not denied that in many sectors large enterprises can achieve better results than medium-size concerns. It is suggested, however, that firms with a predominant position in the market tend (or are tempted) to abuse this position by, for example, keeping prices higher than they would normally be in competition between a greater number of producers in periods of limited sales.

It follows that if the means of production were merged to the extent that the market would be supplied by only a few or perhaps even by a single enterprise, consumers would be worse off than if

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Conditions for a major breakthrough would seem to be ideal in this country, if one discounts the fact that a gulf exists between suppliers and consumers. Yet at the beginning of last year only eleven to twelve per cent of households in the Federal Republic possessed its own freezer, according to figures issued by the industry's association.

Most people are fairly prosperous in this country. When business is good, sales of frozen foods show an increase. Many women are working and have little time for cooking at home. With the tensions of professional life increasing also in this country, the desire for greater leisure is stronger than ever. And yet sales of frozen foods are only edging upward.

Comparative figures from Scandinavian countries are quoted again and again. Per capita consumption in Sweden is sixteen pounds, in Norway and Denmark seven pounds and in Britain almost ten pounds.

Is the German housewife simply not economically minded? Is she still loyal to grandmother's cookery book? Is she not aware of the time saved with frozen foods? Has she tasted too many frozen products which were not quite up to par in quality and taste? Are the quantities on sale too much for one-man households? Is the range of products on the market still too small? Who can say?

Manufacturers do not know quite where to begin. "If we knew, we would long since have opened up the market,"

said a Findus spokesman. While this decision remains, it would be wiser perhaps to concentrate on the more economically minded large-scale consumers who boosted sales in 1967 by eighteen per cent. Household sales went up only five per cent. Domestic packages of frozen foods still account for seventy per cent of returns, however.

Manufacturers and traders should do more therefore than simply follow the market trend. Advertising must be better organised. Consumers must be better informed of the advantages of frozen foods.

In this matter of consumer instruction manufacturers are disconcerted with suppliers who they say are not making the right effort to promote frozen foods. Since frozen foods account for only a small percentage of overall food sales, the considerable profit margin going with a packet of frozen food is not fully appreciated. Many traders are apt to conclude that frozen foods are not worth the trouble. The very opposite is true, say the makers, who deplore this attitude.

Much could be achieved too with a more flexible production policy. Sales have been carried since the early sixties by frozen-vegetable soups, fish fingers and spinach. A vast number of other products have come on the market since then, but none of them has sold as well as these three.

The trade needs these "runners," however. Findus believes it has found one in a new cod fillet that was recently launched and has surpassed the firm's expectations.

Usually when a product is launched a slump sets in after the curiosity wave of buying has passed. Findus end is still as popular as ever. Findus is convinced that new ideas are what will sell frozen foods. In the fifties and early sixties it was a question of inducing people to touch them at all. Now presentation is vital.

Production can expand any time with the market. The facilities are available. Existing plant can be extended without much trouble by simply adding more production units.

Traders too have their reserves. About eighty per cent of the 174,000 retail outlets in this country are equipped with deep-freeze storage units.

The speed at which these will be filled and emptied in future depends on the success of advertising campaigns which must be instructive and attractive, and on the introduction of a more flexible production policy. But suppliers too must make a greater effort to interest their customers in frozen food products.

(DIE WELT, 15 February 1969)

New advertising agency set up in Stuttgart

Stuttgart has a new advertising centre. "What Madison Avenue is for New York, Stuttgart's advertising centre Europe, could become for the old Continent, namely, a focal point of the advertising business," wrote one enthusiastic reporter.

This may take some time. The founder and managing director of the centre—Werbecenter-Gesellschaft modis—forty-two-year-old Gerhard E. Schelble, expects a turnover this year from rents and fees of 1.2 million Marks.

The centre cost 2.5 million Marks to build. All the offices in the building have since found tenants. The show-cases and exhibition rooms have been rented mostly by manufacturers of advertising gifts and material of every description.

Gerhard E. Schelble owns the Center Display Verlag which sells display material. He also runs Center Präsen, a wholesale advertising gift concern. These two firms share half of the capital stock (20,000 Marks) of the new centre.

Schelble has refused to say who is putting up the other half. The name entered in the commercial register is Dr. I. P. Probst (Lugano).

A press notice said that two foreign enterprises had shared the cost of the centre. Their fifty per cent interest is being held in trust.

Schelble, who comes from Swabia, sits at establishing contacts between suppliers of advertising material and services and the advertising industry. Services of various description will be offered in his centre.

For 850 Marks a year a company can avail itself of the centre's facilities. Advice will be given in matters concerning advertising and sales, publications and supply and demand.

One department in the new centre, for example, can ascertain without delay where a four-colour prospectus could be quickly printed. A conference room complete with bar is at the disposal of companies who wish to hold seminars, give receptions or simply arrange informal meetings.

Schelble intends to pursue a policy of strict neutrality. If the centre is successful, he may set up others in different parts of the country and perhaps abroad.

(Der Volkswirt, 14 February 1969)

Anglo-German business talks

British and Federal Republic businessmen intend to meet for regular talks on practical recommendations for closer cooperation. If the British follow the proposal made by Alvin Münchmeyer to the British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, during the latter's visit to the DIHT (Deutscher Industrie- und Handelsstag), Münchmeyer suggested to the Prime Minister that industrialists from both countries should meet regularly, for example, on an "investment committee."

Workable ways of extending relations between businessmen are to be examined. These would benefit both sides, since both countries' interests are complementary.

Britain welcomes all forms of capital

imports, the Federal Republic all forms of capital exports. If British enterprises, whether publicly or privately owned, were to raise loans on the Federal Republic market, as their French counterparts are accustomed to doing, this country's balance of payments surpluses and the British payments deficits would be reduced.

Mr Wilson promised to discuss the matter with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Confederation of British Industry.

Regular contacts also further other common interests. With Europe in mind, such plans for practical cooperation are very welcome. Perhaps it is time for economists to steal the march on the politicians.

(DIE WELT, 15 February 1969)

April 1969

AUTOMOBILES

Volkswagen initiates largest-ever public opinion poll of car owners



Volkswagen have launched their second-ever large-scale campaign to probe public opinion about their range of private cars. Over a period of three weeks thousands of test vehicles are on stand-by at Volkswagen dealers' all over the country. Driving instructors and dual-control models are even available for interested members of the general public who have not yet passed the driving test.

In spring 1967, when Volkswagen launched the first campaign of this kind, the Wolfsburg car workers were working short-time. Domestic sales had slumped by nearly a quarter since 1966, a record year.

Now that hard times are here, the trade noted, even Heinrich Nordhoff, Volkswagen's first managing director, is having to pay attention to the demands of

the general public. Over a period of twenty years Heinrich Nordhoff had made the bombed-out Wolfsburg works the largest motor manufacturer in Europe. Nordhoff concentrated on two factors:

- rational, inexpensive manufacture by means of thorough automation
- a closely-linked network of dealers geared to carry out repairs at fixed rates.

As long as the Beetle, a Volkswagen evergreen of over thirty years' standing continued to sell at a profit the uncrowned king of Wolfsburg showed little interest in customers' requirements and tastes. Until well into the sixties customers could almost count themselves lucky to get hold of a Volkswagen, so great was the demand.

When Professor Nordhoff died last April Volkswagen sold only two basic models, a far cry from the other major manufacturers, particularly the Americans and their European subsidiaries. Volkswagen buyers had perhaps a dozen versions from which to choose. Opel, for instance, had 145.

Production capacity of 7,000 per day

Nordhoff's legacy to his successor, Kurt Lotz, was a firm with an assembly-line capacity of approximately 7,000 cars a day and the 411, the new saloon launched last autumn. Sales this spring will show whether or not the 411 has been a success.

Yet even though 1968 was a record year for Volkswagen, with a turnover of 11,600 million Marks and 1.8 million cars manufactured, Volkswagen have seldom given better value for money. In mid-February, when the market was shaken by various Berlin rumours, VW shares fell eight points, from 554 1/2 to 546.

NSU shares, on the other hand, are quoted at 403, a steady high. NSU shares have interested stock market speculators since mid-January. On 14 February NSU shares with a nominal value of 700,000 Marks changed hands. The day before it was more than three quarters of a million Marks' worth, nearly one per cent of the share capital. Dealings in NSU shares have been heavier than those in virtually any other stock.

This is nothing unusual for the NSU management, headed by Dr Gerd Stieler von Heydekamp. Hardly a year has passed since NSU, who started off a good eighty years ago manufacturing sewing machines, then bicycles, then motorcycles and occasionally motor-cars, went over to manufacturing cars only in 1957 in which there have not been wild fluctuations in the market quotation and take-over rumours. "Living with NSU has never been boring," managing director Heydekamp comments.

In 1957 NSU sold their motor-cycle production line to Yugoslavia and started a comeback into the motor trade with the Prinz 3. "We moved from first place in motor-cycles to the bottom of the league in motor-cars," says Heydekamp. NSU became an avant-garde manufacturer after this exercise in forward strategy.

"It was sheer necessity that prompted us to take up the Wankel rotary engine," Heydekamp now admits. "We had to look out for something new to sell in place of bicycles and mopeds." The first Wankel engine, a rotary piston engine in which the energy generated by combustion is converted directly into rotary motion, sprang into life for the first time on 1 February 1957.

The Wankel engine shot NSU shares up to meteoric heights. For a time the shares were quoted at more than 3,000—

thirty times their nominal value. It is an open secret that Dresdner Bank, at that time the majority shareholder, sold most of its holdings, so that NSU shares now widely spread.

With approximately ten per cent of the share capital Dresdner Bank is still a major shareholder in comparison with the other 35,000 or so. Two smaller holdings are said to be Swiss-owned.

Via the Prinz 4 NSU slowly made its way towards the one-litre category, continually accompanied by merger and take-over rumours. The list of reputed would-be buyers includes virtually every major motor manufacturer. Chrysler have been most persistently rumoured to be interested in taking over the Neckarsulm firm.

But in the end NSU opted to collaborate with Citroën of France in developing a Wankel-engined European Volkswagen of the future. This legendary car, the Comobil, has already made automobile

Increased foreign car sales in the Federal Republic last year

Foreign cars last year further consolidated and improved their market position in this country. Although partly due to fighting prices, a varied and attractive range and, of course, snob appeal, this success is still to some extent the result of a backlog in the internationalisation of the motor trade.

The 295,000 imported cars accounted for nearly 23 per cent of cars newly-registered in this country last year. Common Market makes, cars from France and Italy took the lion's share. In 1967 only nineteen per cent of new cars were imported and in 1968 less than fourteen per cent.

Fiat, including Autobianchi, unquestionably head the list with 95,000 units, or 7.3 per cent of 1968 domestic sales (as against 6.2 in 1967). Deutsche Fiat, the Heilbronn subsidiary, sold another 13,000 units, making a total market share of 8.3 per cent.

In the league tables Fiat of Italy occupy fifth place after Volkswagen and the two local US subsidiaries, Ford and Opel, and Daimler-Benz.

history even though the first prototype is hardly likely to be shown to the general public before 1970—if things even progress that far.

The first car specifically designed for the Wankel engine, the Ro 80, has since been manufactured at Neckarsulm. Fiat have joined forces with financially-weak Citroën, so laying the groundwork for the General Motors of Europe envisaged by Fiat's managing director. And NSU cannot manufacture cars fast enough to meet foreign orders, particularly exports to Italy.

So the future of the Comobil is less certain than it has been. Fiat are unquestionably the major partner in the Franco-Italian duo and Fiat boss Agnelli still has doubts about the Wankel engine and anything to do with it.

At the beginning of this year the market was shaken by a rumour that Fiat had bought up more than 25 per cent of NSU's share capital. Citroën is reported to have been the source of a ten-per-cent stake and a major Roan bank is reputed to have bought large numbers of NSU shares for an unspecified third party.

Fiat were quick to deny the rumour but there has still been no answer to a question tabled in the Italian Parliament by Socialist deputy Alberto Ciampaglia, who asked Luigi Preti, Minister of Finance, whether there is any truth in reports that Fiat are in the process of coming to terms with NSU.

Italian regulations require consultation with the government before any transaction of major importance. A take-over of NSU certainly comes under this heading. Yet Fiat could go the roundabout way and operate via Citroën and their Heilbronn subsidiary.

A new rumour is now going the stock market rounds. Volkswagen managing director Lotz is reputed not to be prepared to allow Fiat to take over NSU without a fight and Volkswagen are negotiating with Neckarsulm too. NSU boss Heydekamp and Volkswagen's public relations department deny the rumour categorically but Kurt Lotz himself is less forthright.

Since when there has been stock market speculation that Volkswagen will shortly



A line-up of Volkswagen 'Beetles'. (Photo: Rudi Herzig)

be offering NSU shareholders a share swap of some kind.

If current information is to be believed this is not the first time Volkswagen have approached NSU. In the search for additional production facilities Professor Nordhoff is reputed to have said as long ago as 1966 that he would like to buy up NSU, much as he took over Auto Union in Ingolstadt three years beforehand.

The Auto Union take-over shed some light on Nordhoff's management ideas. The man who made the Beetle a world-wide success mainly had his eye on the half-empty Ingolstadt assembly-lines, on which he could manufacture another 300 Beetles a day. The Audi range was an add-on.

Nine months after Nordhoff's death the atmosphere in Wolfsburg has changed. In recent weeks Kurt Lotz has outlined in talks with journalists his ideas for the country's largest firm.

Kurt Lotz favours a wider range of models to meet customers' varying requirements and is attracted by the American principle of dividing a firm into independently-operating divisions.

The parallels with the ideas and aims of Fiat managing director Giovanni Agnelli can hardly be overlooked.

The first consequence of Lotz's idea is the decision to build a new Volkswagen works in Salzgitter and quit Ingolstadt. This is a tribute to the sales success of the Audi and the move will at long last give the Auto Union management an opportunity of extending their own range in a consistent manner.

The second consequence will probably be the unveiling of the Volkswagen this autumn, a popular sports model designed to appeal to young, sporting drivers.

Will the third consequence be the take-over of an NSU division with its own range of rotary-engined models? This would be a logical move towards the greatest car empire in Europe.

At the moment a prospective buyer of NSU would have to pay more than 400 million Marks, which is far more than the firm is worth. But when Die Welt recently wrote that a one-for-one swap of Volkswagen shares in exchange for NSU stock would be bound to trigger off a storm of protest on the part of Volkswagen shareholders the protest did in fact come from the association of NSU shareholders. They feel it would only be a fair exchange.

(Die Zeit, 21 February 1969)

TECHNOLOGY

How to make a million - by thinking!

THOMAS ENGEL, FRANKFURT'S THINKING MACHINE

Simply by sitting down and thinking Thomas Engel makes millions. He may never be given a mention in this country but the managing directors of chemicals giants in Europe, America and Japan outdo one another in bidding for his services. They offer him princely salaries to join their staff but Engel prefers to stay his own boss and sell licences to use his many patents.

In his modern house in which Old Masters hang side by side with any number of old clocks Engel either works in his study, reading books, or in the laboratory nearby. The house stands in a meadow on the outskirts of Heusenstamm, near Frankfurt. The view is anything but attractive but Heusenstamm is centrally located and no distance from Rhine-Main airport.

Thomas Engel travels around Europe by helicopter. His helicopter is in a hangar where most people have their garage. When he has to travel overseas he uses normal jet services.

Engel is blond, slim, athletic and handsome. The occupation listed on his visiting-card is process engineer. A fairly piece of the twentieth century, his watch-world is know-how. He makes one discovery after another in plastics. What research teams consisting of dozens of specialists fail to figure out in years of costly labor-

atory work Thomas Engel works out on his own in Heusenstamm.

He already has sixty international patents and his is not the lot of countless inventors whose ideas are scrowled. Engel's inventions are worth their weight in gold for major manufacturers, and so is Engel himself.

Forty-one-year-old Engel is a self-made man par excellence. "I am an autodidact," he frankly admits. Engel hails from Leipzig but his parents moved to Offenbach in 1938. He went to boarding school but failed to pass his school-leaving certificate. "I saw the inside of a school for the last time at the age of sixteen." After the war he worked as a cook for the Americans, then as an interpreter and a commercial traveller.

Fifteen years ago everyone began to talk about synthetics. Thomas Engel took note, took out his savings and started manufacturing in an old laundry in Offenbach. He sprayed old metal jigs with plastic and sold them as buckets.

Engel's buckets were cheaper than the usual metal ones and certainly less expensive than the new plastic buckets. He had gathered his first snatterings of knowledge about plastics from library books at Frankfurt's Amerika-Haus.

But in the long run the enterprise was not a success. The plastic did not stick to the metal. Engel stopped making buckets and decided instead—once bitten but still cautious—to do research on plastics.

This was how he came to hit on the ideas for his first patents, which were concerned with the polymerisation of synthetics. In 1957 he developed the Engel process, which greatly simplified polyethylene work. Instead of having to rely on bulky die casting machines manufacturers found they could manage quite well with simple and inexpensive equipment.

Several other of Thomas Engel's discoveries have been of major significance for the international synthetics market. It was Engel who developed a process by which technical fabrics react to breathing. The result was that plastics could be used for car roofs.

Another Engel invention was a means of seamlessly welding large sections of plastic, which has proved of major economic significance for storing chemicals. The firm he has developed have been used to make fenders for heavy commercial vehicles and even missile cones.

The Engel process is now used to cover steel pipes with plastic and weld them together to oil pipelines or water mains. Engel, too, succeeded in reducing the specific gravity of polyethylene from 0.92 to 0.8. Even saddles, golf balls and children's toys are made from plastic based on hints provided by Thomas Engel. There are factories using Engel patents in every Western industrialised country.

In 1964 Goodyear in the United States succeeded in vulcanising rubber. Previously rubber had only been used as putty for window-frames. With the discovery of vulcanisation rubber suddenly had thousands of uses.

To begin with plastics could not be vulcanised at all. Subsequently an expensive and dangerous way of doing it was discovered. It was left to Thomas Engel to invent an inexpensive way of vulcanising plastics. It was merely a matter of compression and an admixture of certain chemicals. It can well be imagined what vistas this opened up for the chemicals industry.

Engel produced formulas for heat-resistant plastic, since when plastics have

been capable of withstanding a permanent temperature of 130 degrees centigrade instead of the previous seventy and can even withstand 400 degrees centigrade for a short period.

Plastics of this kind are made into piping for floor-based central heating, for instance. They are not only heat-resistant but also flexible and impervious to cold and so no longer break.

Thomas Engel is a constant visitor at the head offices of chemicals giants. The managements are often seen at his comfortable Heusenstamm house too. He collects them from the airport in one of his specially-designed Italian sports cars.

Five times a year he flies according to a strictly pre-arranged programme to the United States and East Asia. Although he

has never studied chemistry he recently delivered a lecture on synthetics to 600 professors of chemistry and physics in New York.

Early in the morning, before school starts, he cycles through the woods with his two children, seven and ten years old, for half an hour. After breakfast he sits in an armchair and thinks. "It doesn't cost me a penny," he adds. Engel does not even read specialist journals. He likes to keep his mind free from alien ideas.

"Plastics have only just begun," he reckons. People will grow accustomed to the use of plastics in areas of life in which synthetic materials as yet play no part whatsoever. "I am a plastics designer," Engel declares, and the secret of his success is that "I start from scratch. I am free from university bias. Practices in better than theory. Am I not proud of myself?"

Thomas Engel does not think it will be long before motor-cars are made entirely of plastic, including the engine. "The shape of things to come is already clear," he says. But for once this statement is not a piece of original Engel thinking. (Münchener Merkur, 10 February 1969)

World's largest mobile crane

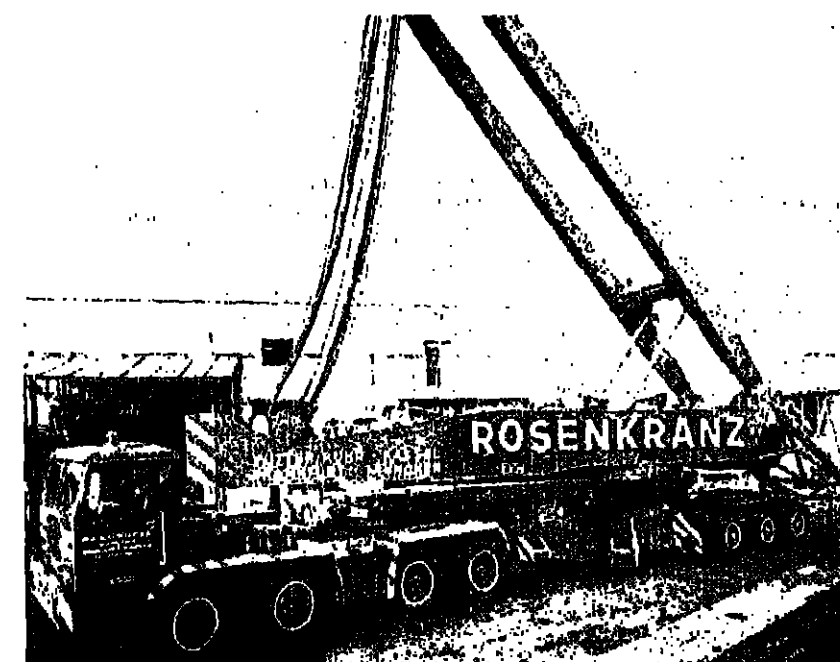
Seven axes of an articulated lorry form the base of a mobile crane, the largest in the world, that can lift 500 tons with its 82-foot jib 28 feet from the axle. Five hundred tons is the weight of six electric locomotives and the maximum height to which the crane can be raised, 525 feet, is only a couple of feet less than the height of Ulm minster.

At this height the crane can only manage a weight of ten tons or so but it can lift this weight at a range of up to 260 feet. This gigantic mobile crane, almost certainly the largest and most powerful in the world, it was built by Paul

reaches an overall weight of 400 tons or so.

Transporting the dismantled parts, including the mast, the hawsers and the grapples, is a matter for seventeen heavy lorries in addition to the main vehicle. Three smaller mobile cranes are needed to assemble the K 5001 on site.

Motorists will never come across such a monster convoy though. Rosenkranz are transporting the giant crane piecemeal, and mostly by rail or inland waterway. Only the last few miles to the site must be covered by road and the parts will be conveyed in succession.



This automobile crane with seven axes can lift approximately 500 tons. The vehicle is not allowed on autobahns without a police escort. (Photo: Hiltner/Rosenkranz)

Rosenkranz of Witten, Ruhr, a member of the Bolme group.

The four-axle articulated heavyweight powered by a 300-horse-power Deutz diesel engine was built by Faun and the three-axle trailer by Willy Schaefer. The cab was built by Rosenkranz and the jib by Thyssen. The cab contains an air-cooled 200-horse-power Deutz diesel engine that powers the hydraulic lifting gear.

Ready to roll the seven-axle base with jib retracted weighs 78 tons and is capable of a maximum speed of 35 miles an hour. In transport the K 5001 is divested of its 135-ton counter-weights and the four props for the 45-foot square base. Including its 525-foot mast the crane

The crane-driver sits in a cab which more often than not will be way below the scene of events. Directions are to be given by intercom.

Mobile cranes of this size are chiefly used in building steelworks or power stations and in chemicals and oil refineries. Even defective dock cranes or cranes in repair are occasionally replaced by mobile stand-ins. This will certainly be the next assignment of the K 5001, which is off to the docks of Marseilles, France.

In all the crane cost a little more than two million Marks. Rosenkranz claim to have an even larger crane on the drawing-board.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 10 February 1969)

Dipl.-Ing. H. L. 10

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